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Allies threaten to use force in Zakho

Iraqis told to get out of town in 24 hours

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ZAKHO AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE United States, Britain and France have told Baghdad that it has until tonight to get its security forces out of the town where the allied refugee camps are being set up.

Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, said last night that allied troops would use force to remove the Iraqis from Zakho, in northern Iraq, if they did not meet the deadline. "Our people have the authority to use the force necessary to make certain that we are able to achieve our objectives," he said.

"We have sufficient forces in the area so that there's no question but that we would prevail," Mr Cheney said. The United States may well send extra forces. There are now 7,000 American military personnel on the Turkish border and in northern Iraq.

The White House said the 13-point ultimatum was delivered to Dr Abdul Amir al-Anbari, the Iraqi representative at the United Nations. The instruction said the armed police must start leaving the town at 3am this morning, London time, and that the operation must be

complete in 24 hours. Within hours of the ultimatum being issued, however, it was clear that the lines of communication between the allied forces on the ground were confused.

Royal Marines from 45 Commando were stood down three hours before they were due to begin patrolling the streets of Zakho, where yesterday hundreds of gun-toting Iraqi "policemen" were still terrorising the Kurds.

The marines alleged that Washington had changed their orders to avoid any fighting between the allies and the uniformed men, claimed by many Kurds to be members of President Saddam Hussein's special forces. American officers denied that Baghdad had been issued with any deadline, although the Royal Marines insisted that it had.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Flocke, the senior American military spokesman, said Baghdad had been formally told to pull out most of the "policemen". "We have asked them to respond quickly, but we have set no deadline."

The presence of the Iraqi forces has deterred many Kurds from leaving their squalid conditions in the mountains to take refuge in the allied camps. The Royal Marines were clearly frustrated that they had been unable to carry out their orders and the tension between the two forces in the town was palpable.

The failure of the marines to begin their patrols disappointed many Kurds who accused the West of dabbling about the Iraqi forces. They also expressed scepticism about the provisional agreement on Kurdish autonomy made between Saddam and Jalal Talibani, the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

"We do not believe anything from Saddam, he cannot be trusted", a Kurdish electrical engineer said. "The Americans and the British must stay and protect us otherwise we will all be killed."

In Washington, Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said the administration supported any accord that allowed the refugees to return to their homes safely, but the Kurds would have to judge for themselves the value of the deal. "Saddam Hussein has a long record of broken promises, including an earlier

accord in 1970 with the Kurds which was broken," he said.

Shia opposition groups were dismayed by news of the deal. A spokesman for the al-Dawa party, based in Iran, urged the Kurds not to finalise it and said that the agreement could prolong Saddam's grip on power. He would then be able to commit more resources to repressing Iraq's Shia communities. "It will deal a heavy blow to the struggle to topple Saddam and he doesn't keep his promises," the spokesman said.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that UN relief agencies are opposing the administration's plan to transfer control of the refugee camps to the UN once they are up and running. As a result, allied troops may have to operate the camps indefinitely. Mr Fitzwater conceded that there were "many questions that have to be ironed out in the weeks ahead" and indicated that a new UN Security Council resolution might be required.

The newspaper quoted UN officials who said the American plan violated their basic principles for operating relief programmes as the host government, Iraq, was not co-operating. "You won't see a UN flag flying over the camps unless the Iraqi government agrees to it," said one.

Shortly before the decision was taken to delay the allied foot patrols in Zakho, a number of Royal Marines intervened to stop Iraqi "policemen" abducting a Kurd involved in a car crash. Lieutenant-Colonel Thomson, the commanding officer, said: "The man had been hurt in a car crash after curfew and we had put him in a taxi [to go to hospital] when eight of the Iraqi policemen appeared and tried to pull him out. We had to make it plain to them that this is not the way we do things."

Shia doubts, page 12
Defusing timebomb, page 22

Gummer rules out whaling support

Until there is a humane method of killing, Britain will not back whaling, reports Michael McCarthy

Britain will not support the resumption of commercial whaling until there is a method of killing whales humane enough to meet British animal welfare standards, according to John Gummer, the agriculture and fisheries minister, and such a method, he says, does not exist. "not is it about to be on the horizon."

Mr Gummer's unequivocal declaration, in an interview with *The Times*, is as close as British ministers have ever come to ruling out the option of support for carefully controlled whaling, based on detailed assessments of whale numbers and the careful avoidance of over-exploitation of the stock.

Just such an option is likely to be presented to next month's meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in Reykjavik, when the present five-year-old moratorium on commercial whaling may be reviewed. Because Britain has based its attitude to whaling on the scientific evidence, anti-whaling campaigners have recently feared that the government would be drawn into support for limited whaling if there was a strong scientific case that this would not drive species to extinction. An alliance of eight leading conservation groups is planning a mass rally in Trafalgar Square on the eve of the meeting to put pressure on the government.

Mr Gummer's clear stance will delight and reassure them, but it will anger Iceland, Norway and Japan, which were hoping to resume whaling after the adoption of the revised man-

Gorbachev trounces moves to oust him

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday defeated conservative moves to oust him from the leadership of the Soviet Communist party, after being subjected to a torrent of criticism and angry demands for a firmer hand against strikes, nationalism and dissent.

But a wave of industrial unrest and political protest continued through the country, despite this week's call by the leaders of nine republics, including Boris Yeltsin, the leader of the Russian Federation, for an end to strikes and civil disobedience.

According to Interfax news agency, virtually all 349 people at a meeting of the central committee and other key party organs voted against moves to consider Mr Gorbachev's removal, while only 13 voted in favour and 14 abstained.

Earlier, he had issued a dramatic challenge to his critics to remove him if they dared. "Seventy per cent of the speakers are criticising me, not from a personal point of view but on behalf of the people. I offer to resign," he was quoted by delegates as saying.

After a tense interval in discussions, the deputy party chief, Vladimir Ivashko, stated on behalf of the ruling Politburo that "it would not be in the party's interests" to discuss a change of leader. This view was overwhelmingly endorsed.

During the break, a letter was circulated from 72 central committee members accusing Mr Gorbachev's opponents of mounting a procedural coup. They threatened to resign



from the party's policy-making body and campaign for an emergency congress aimed not at changing the leader, but at purging the committee.

Despite the spectacular political victory, Mr Gorbachev continued to face a troubled situation in the Soviet Union as a whole, with coal miners in Siberia and the Ukraine promising to continue their eight-week stoppage, and tens of thousands of workers on strike in Belorussia.

The Russian Federation's official trade union movement, originally part of the communist establishment but now taking an independent line, has called for a token one-hour "warning strike" throughout the territory today. The demands include a higher minimum wage, shorter working hours and longer holidays. The action is also being backed by Democratic Russia, the pro-Yeltsin mass movement whose leaders were

Recession is receding says Major

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

AMID growing signs that the government is undertaking contingency planning for an autumn election, the prime minister said yesterday that the country was beginning to emerge from recession as others slipped into it.

Under attack from Neil Kinnock in the Commons, John Major said: "With interest rates having fallen, with inflation having fallen and set to fall significantly further and with the balance of the trade gap narrowing, it's extremely difficult even for you to deny the improvements that are now coming about."

Ministers and Tory MPs were holding their nerve as the pound suffered in the exchange markets, with some grumbling about ingratitude as Saudi Arabian institutions Continued on Page 28, col 4

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

INTERVIEW

Kate Muir talks to the McGowans, for whom the birth of an underweight son brought a nightmare of suspicion and bureaucracy Page 19

BEHAVIOUR

Tom Clarke on what happened when the Duke of Edinburgh called in sports leaders to discuss the decline of fair play Page 44

LETTERS

General Colin Powell has provoked plenty of letters over the way to pronounce his first name. Today, the General pronounces Page 23

INSIDE

Parking threat
A Labour government would make some parking offences endorsable and drivers with twelve tickets would be banned. John Prescott, the party's transport spokesman, said yesterday Page 2

Health plan
Leaked government plans for a health strategy for England, which includes targets to combat heart disease, strokes and cancer, were attacked by Labour Page 2

Iraqi 'plot'
A managing director with dual British and Iraqi nationality masterminded a plan to export detonating devices for nuclear bombs to the Middle East because he wanted to help Iraq, the Central Criminal Court was told Page 3

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New Civilian Guard for defence sites

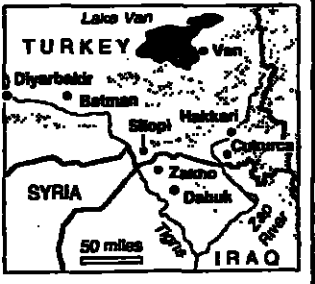
By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A NEW unarmed civilian guard force, which will be trained by the Royal Military Police, is to be formed to protect defence ministry establishments.

The 3,000-strong force will not replace the private security contractors at the heart of a highly critical report by the Commons defence committee last year. Instead, all existing defence ministry civilian security officers would be absorbed into one new body which would benefit from common training, uniforms and pay, according to the ministry yesterday.

Defence ministry sources said that private contractors would still be used if they were doing a good job. Once the new force is in place, from April 1 next year, it is expected that the security men and women will take over many of the guard duties now carried out by service personnel and defence ministry police. The 3,000-strong force will probably increase by 1,000.

Private contractors would be used on fewer occasions. But the ministry denied they would be phased out. At present there were 17 private contractors and 51 contracts.



Oxbridge double first for Japanese millionaire

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT



A JAPANESE millionaire benefactor will today score an Oxbridge double first by being made a fellow of colleges at both the ancient universities on the same day.

Shochi Okinaga, president of the Teikyo University Group, will receive his fellowship of Wadham College, Oxford, at a commemorative lunch. He will then be driven to St Edmund's College, Cambridge, for a repeat performance over dinner.

Dr Okinaga's group is probably the biggest investor in universities in the world. Last year, in addition to donating £4.5 million to Wadham and establishing a £7 million campus in Durham, three Teikyo universities opened in the United States. Three more American campuses have been acquired since, and

a Dutch campus will open soon. St Edmund's will become the latest beneficiary today, receiving £1.5 million for student accommodation and conference facilities. In return, St Edmund's will take up to nine Japanese graduate students and one visiting academic a year.

At both universities, Dr Okinaga will join a select band of honorary fellows. St Edmund's has only seven, headed by the Duke of Norfolk. At Wadham, he will be the sixth foundation fellow.

Dr Okinaga, visiting his £10 million Teikyo school near Slough yesterday, said: "It will be the biggest day of my life. Oxford and Cambridge are known all over the world, and they will be very wonderful occasions." The Oxbridge links will bring prestige to Teikyo university, which is only 25-years-old and still climbing up the pecking order of Japanese higher education. They will

also further Dr Okinaga's dream of a "global education system". Australia and East Germany are next in line for campuses, possibly followed by Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand.

Dr Okinaga is the biggest shareholder in the Mitsubishi Bank and owner of several hospitals. His international activities began four years ago with the idea of producing "world citizens" who would make decisions from an international perspective. "Japan is an island country and historically isolated," he said yesterday. "We need to have more contact with other cultures and other kinds of people."

Cambridge is already celebrating a £5 million donation from Simon Sainsbury, the supermarket millionaire, which enabled it to launch its management studies institute yesterday.

Full report, page 10

Heath backs Major on EC

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

EDWARD Heath yesterday affirmed his support for the direction of government policy under John Major when he praised the prime minister's more positive approach towards Europe. Mr Heath highlighted his happiness with Mr Major's attitude to the EC,

saying he had taken steps to re-establish Britain at the forefront of community developments. He said in a speech in London that Mr Major's impact on Britain's attitude to the EC had been formidable.

APPEAL FOR REFUGEES

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Three 'plotted export of nuclear bomb parts to Iraq'

By RAY CLANCY

A MANAGING director with dual British and Iraqi nationality masterminded a plan to export detonating devices for nuclear bombs to the Middle East because he wanted to help Iraq, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Ali Ashour Daghir's object was to help Iraq to obtain electrical capacitors designed and made in the United States. But the CIA was alerted to the plan by the vigilant head of the company commissioned to make the devices and British customs officers at Heathrow airport intercepted two cases and replaced the contents with dummies.

Alan Moses, QC, for the prosecution, said Euromac, a company based in Thames Ditton, Surrey, whose managing director was Mr Daghir, would only have made "nuts" from the deal. "There was nothing in it for the company. Just the desire of Mr Daghir to help the Iraqis," he said. Mr Daghir, aged 49, of Esher, Surrey, and two co-defendants, Toufic Fouad Amyuni, aged 37, of West Brompton, Kent, and Jeanine Speckman, aged 41, of Addlestone, Surrey, deny conspiracy to export 40 electrical capacitors illegally.

The scheme began in September 1988 when the Iraqi government approached Euromac for help in buying electrical components. An order was placed with an American firm CSI of San Marcos, California, which specialised in making capacitors. Mr Moses said that the devices had to be specially designed because "their purpose was to detonate bombs, in particular nuclear bombs".

The president of CSI came suspicious of the Iraqi requirements. Mr Moses said that although the Iraqis did not detail the purpose of the

capacitors, telexed orders and other documents showed that they were to be of "military specification" and able to withstand shock and vibration at a height of 10 kilometres, "the height that aircraft commonly fly when dropping bombs" and to withstand shock and vibration "sufficient for bombs being carried on the outside of a plane".

The CIA and US customs were alerted and secret observations of the negotiations were carried out. British customs officers became involved and an American customs agent posed as an employee of CSI at a meeting held in the Cavendish hotel, London, in September 1989.

A secret recording of that meeting disclosed that the purpose of the capacitors was going to be falsely described, Mr Moses said. It was decided that the goods would not be exported direct from the United States to Iraq but via Britain and then secretly on to Baghdad. As export director Mrs Speckman was responsible for getting the documents. No licences were ever applied for to export the capacitors from Britain to Iraq. Mr Amyuni, the company's sales director, was to take the devices to Baghdad in his passenger luggage on an Iraqi Airways flight.

However, when two crates arrived at Heathrow airport on March 20, 1990, customs officers were waiting. They intercepted the boxes and found a total of 85 capacitors of which 40 had been "specially designed for detonating nuclear bombs". These devices were replaced with dummies. They then waited while the crates lay in a warehouse and eight days later made arrests when the boxes were being loaded onto the plane.

The hearing continues today.



Groundwork: police search the undergrowth for clues to the disappearance of Rachel McLean, "a typical, pleasant, 19-year-old" student

Sex bias admitted by union

THE union headed by Brenda Dean was yesterday condemned for practising unlawful sex discrimination in the Thomas De La Rue company, which prints paper money (Tim Jones writes). As a result of a ruling by an industrial tribunal at Newcastle upon Tyne, the firm's women employees will receive the same pay and conditions as men doing work of equal value.

The tribunal decided that the Gateshead company knowingly aided the union, Sogat 82, and its Newcastle branch in providing less effective collective bargaining for women than for men, resulting in job segregation and unequal pay. After the four women workers brought the complaint, the union admitted discriminating against them. The company agreed with the finding and settled the women's equal pay claim with an undisclosed sum.



McLean: "Seemed to know stranger on platform"

Fears mount for girl student

IN THE world of Chief Inspector Morse, the disappearance of Rachel McLean from her Oxford lodgings would have been solved swiftly after a burst of Wagner, several pints of real ale and a dash in his Jaguar (Stewart Tendler writes). For Det Supt John Bound, with a Sierra and a taste for rock music, life is not that simple.

Yesterday, ten days after Miss McLean vanished, Mr Bound was balancing a growing investigation with increasing demands from the press and the need to console the girl's parents who had

arrived from Blackpool. At Donnington bridge, police divers were scouring the Isis. On Itley Fields, officers were searching the undergrowth. At Cowley police station, an incident room was working and the files opened on a girl Mr Bound called a "typical 19-year-old: pleasant, happy and enjoying life".

Miss McLean, a second year English student at St Hilda's, had returned to Oxford early to prepare for an examination. She was last seen shortly after 6pm on April 15, saying farewell to her boy friend at the railway station. He is

studying at Nottingham university. While they waited for his train, a man aged between 19 and 22 wearing a leather jacket and jeans spoke to them. He appeared to know Miss McLean and, according to her boy friend, arranged to give her a lift to her lodgings.

Police discovered that she had gone back to her room and changed. Her purse and other belongings were untouched. The bed had not been made and there was no sign when she had last eaten there. "As time goes on," Mr Bound said, "we are becoming more and more concerned."

Battle for Atlantic air trade intensifies

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

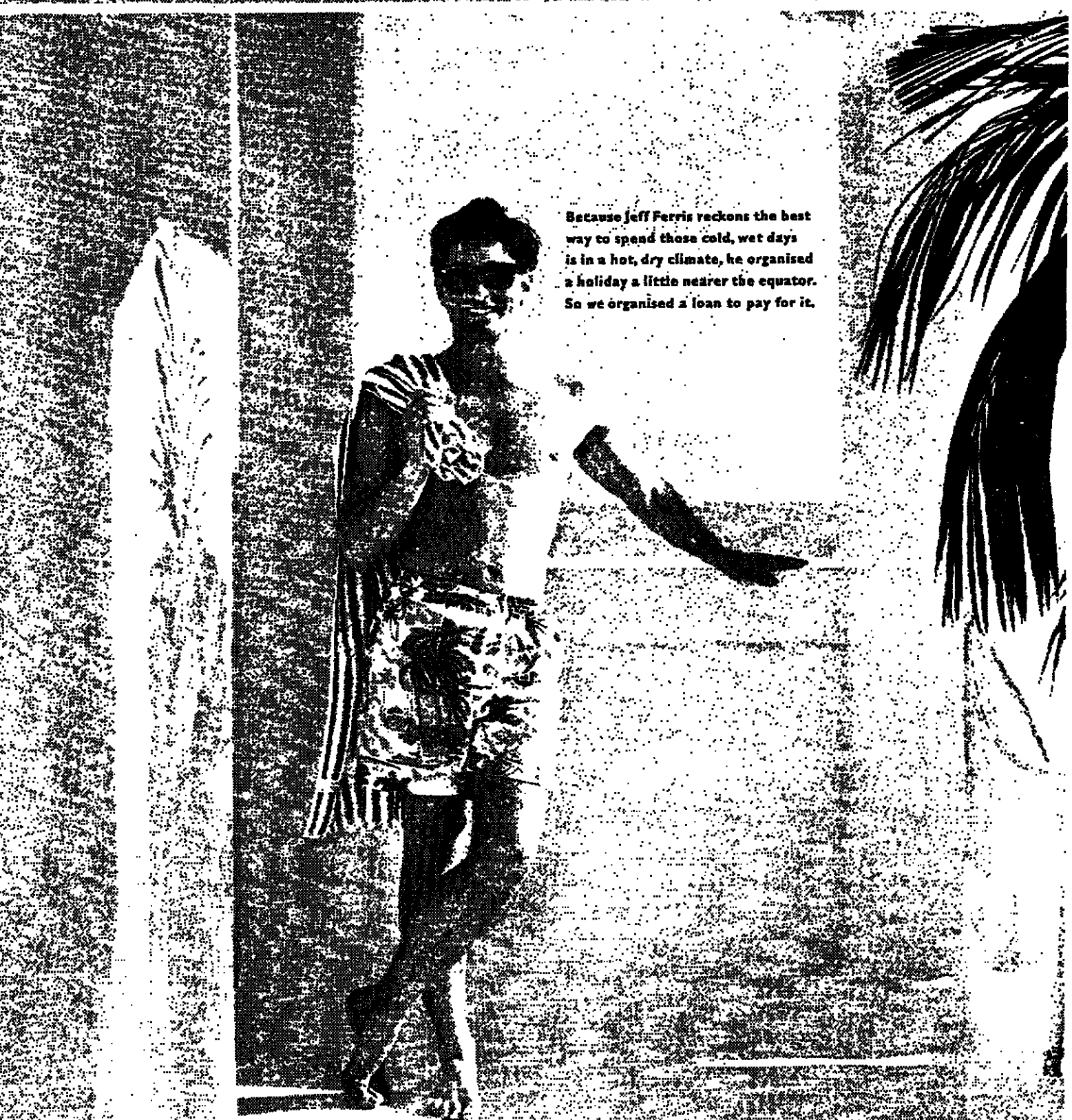
AIRLINE competition on transatlantic routes became fiercer yesterday when two big United States carriers, Delta and American, were given permission to fly to Manchester.

Both begin services within two months, ending three years of struggle by Manchester airport for improved air links to America for northern business and leisure travellers. Competition had already been intense when United and American were allowed to operate from Heathrow.

Delta's flights to Atlanta and American Airlines' to New York will put increased pressure on the transport department to negotiate greater access for British airlines to the vast market in America. New talks are to be held in London next week aimed at gaining greater liberalisation of services between Britain and America and transport department negotiators will be pressing hard for rights for British airlines to feed passengers from America's hinterland to main international airports.

The Americans are certain to seek greater access to Heathrow and for the right to build up a base at Manchester from which to serve Europe. British Airways is finding it difficult to make profits on its daily Manchester-New York service and may have to drop the route if it fails to win further concessions from the US.

I hate the cold and damp



Because Jeff Ferris reckons the best way to spend those cold, wet days is in a hot, dry climate, he organised a holiday a little nearer the equator. So we organised a loan to pay for it.

More 16-year-olds staying on in full-time education

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

BRITAIN is slowly catching up with its competitors in the number of 16-year-olds who are in full-time education, according to figures published yesterday which show that more than half of those aged 16 are choosing to stay on at school or college.

Britain still lags behind

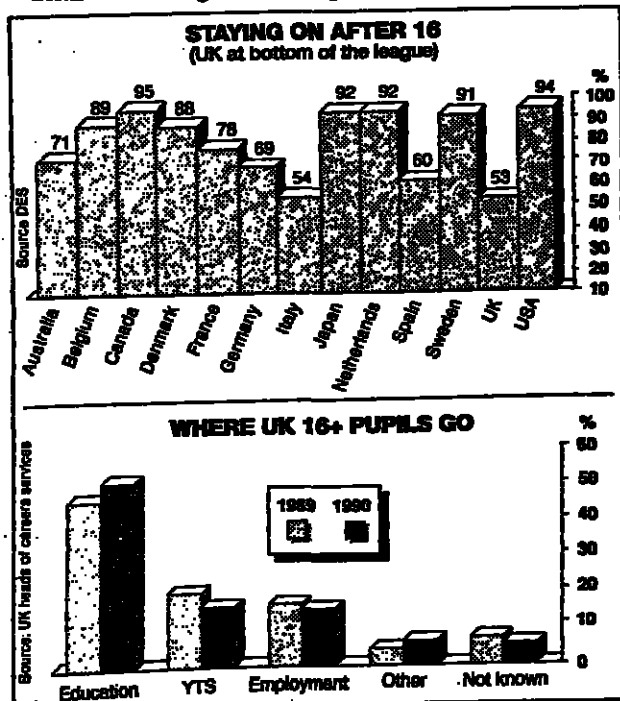
most of Europe, Japan, and America, where around 90 per cent of 16-year-olds continue their schooling, but there has been a steady rise in post-16 education. In 1986, 49 per cent of 16-year-olds continued in full-time education, rising to 50 per cent in 1988 and 53 per cent last year, the first time

that the majority of Britain's young people stayed in the classroom.

The survey of all 575,000 school-leavers in 1990 comes in the same week as the Prince of Wales attacked the country's education service, saying that only one-third of 16 to 18-year-olds were in full-time education. Only one in five 16-year-olds was missing out on either education or some kind of training, according to the Association of County Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

Their survey showed that 55 per cent of those starting work were given on-the-job training while the proportion of teenagers finding government training places fell from 22 to 17 per cent. Those known not to be studying, training or working increased from 5 to 7 per cent. Careers advisers did not know what had happened to the remaining 6 per cent.

Welcoming the survey results, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said: "More and more young people are recognising the importance of continuing their education. Many are also pursuing part-time studies. Overall, well over three quarters of our 16-year-olds are furthering their education in one way or another."



Writer 'demanded \$100,000 for photograph of Seymour'

By DAVID YOUNG

A WRITER demanded \$100,000 (£59,000) for the return of a "pornographic" picture of Jane Seymour, the actress, a court was told yesterday.

George Mendoza, aged 57, of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, demanded money from Annie Gould, Miss Seymour's sister, for the photograph and taped conversations which he stole while staying at her home in California, Bath Magistrates' Court was told.

Simon Diaper, prosecuting, said that Miss Seymour had invited Mendoza to stay at her ranch to help her to write a book. "Miss Seymour and other members of her family would supply Mendoza with various amounts of information," he



Seymour: asked writer to help her with book

said. "Miss Seymour said some material was taken without her consent." Mendoza sold the world rights to material allegedly stolen from the house for a reported \$40,000 (£23,600) to

The Sun, Mr Diaper said. He added that on April 10, Mendoza telephoned Annie Gould, the actress's sister at Miss Seymour's home near Bath, and in subsequent conversations suggested he had a "pornographic photograph" of Miss Seymour which he would sell back for \$100,000.

Mendoza is charged that, in April this year, he demanded with menaces \$100,000 from Annie Gould in exchange for photographs, taped conversations and other materials that he had in his possession, otherwise he would publish those articles. Magistrates ordered Mendoza, arrested in London on Tuesday, to be remanded in custody until May 2. Reporting restrictions were lifted.

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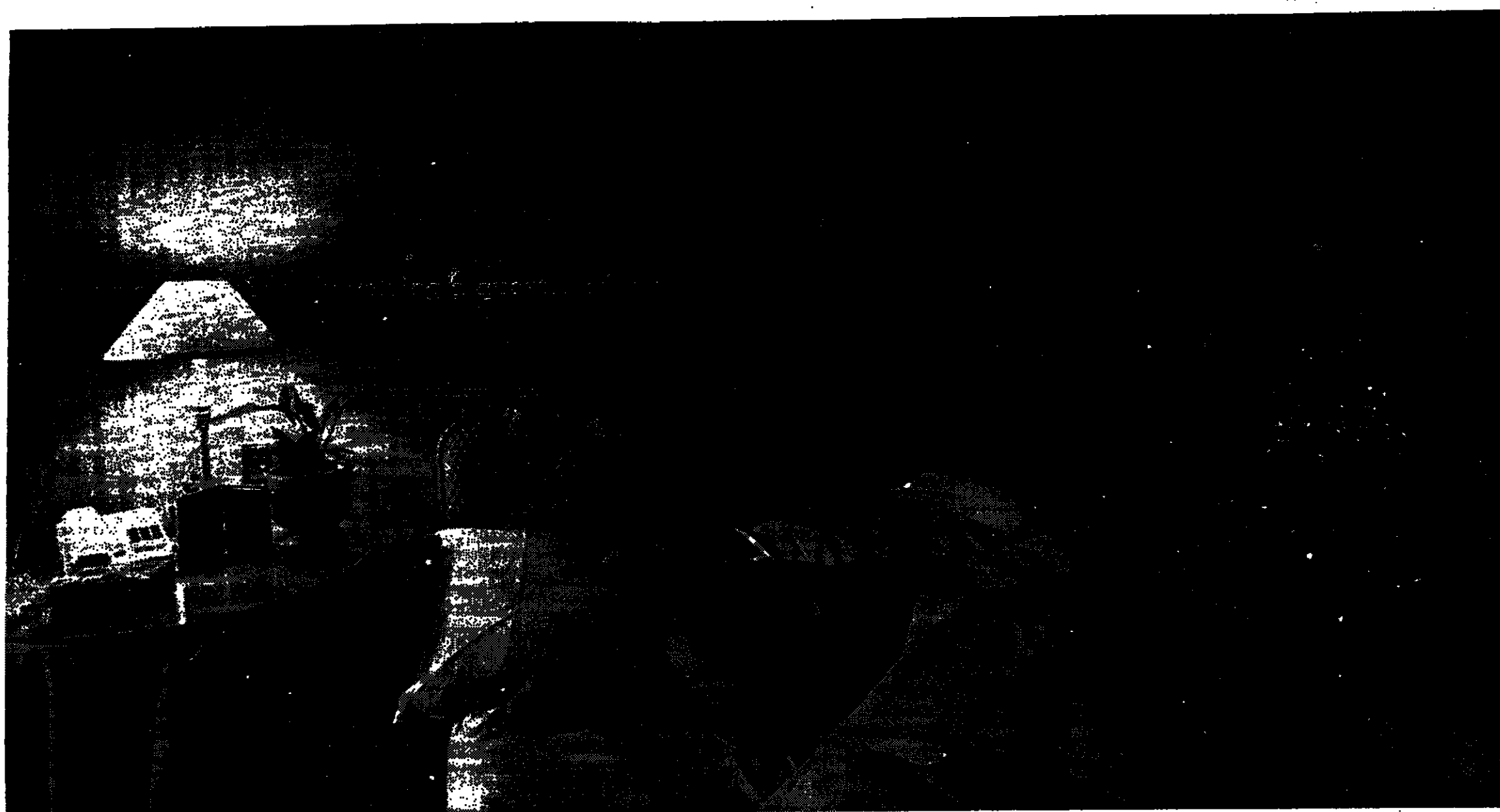
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Is the Edinburgh Shuttle always too full?

Is it becoming essential that you learn Japanese?

Is your boss suffering from delusions of adequacy?

Is your career path becoming a maze?

Is your indispensable secretary leaving?

Is a quiet holiday a rare luxury?

Is hotel food getting boring?

Is there a reason why you put yourself through all this?

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Scot cal tax- ass

THE Scottish Conservative party was bracing itself for an embarrassing split last night after one of its most prominent members called for the establishment of a Scottish parliament with wide-ranging powers including the ability to raise taxes.

Simon Stevenson, an MP for the party and a member within the party and a few others called for a moderate assembly with powers over most aspects of Scottish life. The assembly would

Orkney to reinstate suspended reporter

ORKNEY council last night agreed to reinstate Kathie Kemp, the reporter suspended from the island's children's panel more than a year ago (K. Gull writes).

Her suspension followed anonymous criticisms to local newspaper about running of the Camowran children's home in Kirkwall, island's main town.

Earlier this week, Ian L. the Scottish secretary, rejected an application by the council to dismiss Mrs Kemp. A examining submissions by council and Mrs Kemp, Lang said that the council had not made a sufficient case to justify her dismissal.

Nick Clayton, the council spokesman, said: "She recommenced her duties soon as new conditions of service have been agreed in consultation with representatives of the Scottish Office recommended by the council of state." He added that Kemp would have responsibility for all new cases.

After Mrs Kemp's suspension, the council appointed Gordon Sloan, from the island, as interim replacement. Sloan was severely criticised over the panel's handling of the case involving the Orkney children taken into care in February after allegations of ritual sexual abuse.

Sheriff David Reid strongly criticised proceedings by the panel and social workers at a hearing into evidence. The children returned to their families a few weeks in care.

Mrs Kemp said: "I have been completely vindicated and I would like now to be running a children's health system that Orkney can be proud of."

Last week, Mr Lang announced that a full judicial enquiry would be held into Orkney affair.

Forensics justified

By QUENTIN COWDRIE

THE charging system for forensic science services is hampering some minor criminal investigations, but will cost taxpayers better value for money, Janet Thompson, director of the Forensic Science Service, said yesterday.

Speaking on the eve of an official launch of the service as an executive agency, Thompson said: "It is perfectly possible that in the we did some work which not very useful such as spending £1,000 in the lab working on a £25 criminal case. But it didn't happen often. Because we now know precisely what our costs are and have an even better system of the police's needs, we are offering much better value for money."

Earlier this week the Midlands police said they had been forced to devise strict guidelines governing the use of forensic services because of the charging procedure. The force has allocated £1.25 million this year for forensic work, although it estimates needs £1.6 million. Thompson acknowledged forces such as the West Midlands might have to be selective in their use of scientists.

From today the six Home Office forensic science laboratories in England and Wales will be run at a length from Whitehall by an executive agency. Ministers claim the move will unshackle the service, making it more cost-efficient. However, some of the 400 scientists help to solve crimes by analysing

Justice 1250

Scots Tory calls for tax-raising assembly

By KERRY GILL

THE Scottish Conservative party was bracing itself for an embarrassing split last night after one of its most prominent members called for the establishment of a Scottish parliament with wide-ranging powers including the ability to raise taxes.

Struan Stevenson, an authority on local government within the party and a leading moderate, called for a devolved assembly with power over most aspects of Scottish life. The assembly would be

funded from Scotland's own resources with companies operating north of the border having to return their profits for taxation in Scotland.

Mr Stevenson's suggestion could not come at a more difficult time for Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, who already faces the risk of a revolt at the Scottish party conference in Perth next month over the government's abolition of the poll tax. With Margaret Thatcher having been replaced with John Major, party moderates believe their position has been strengthened which has given them the confidence to oppose official party policy.

During visits to Scotland earlier this year, Mr Major reiterated the party's opposition to any form of devolution involving a tax raising assembly. There is, however, a belief that he might become more amenable to the issue, particularly if Scottish Tories again lose heavily at the general election.

Mr Stevenson, former leader of the Tory group on the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and prospective parliamentary candidate for Edinburgh South, explained his plan for a Scottish parliament in a speech at Heriot Watt university. He said that, with the government likely to adopt single tier councils, the Conservatives had the opportunity to support a directly elected assembly.

"Scottish Conservatives stand for a truly United Kingdom, in which every part can play its role in one allegiance. Nevertheless, we must admit we have been wrong to shut our ears to demands from Scotland for more self government," he said. "Producing a workable scheme for devolution is an essential task and one which could do much to preserve the future of the union."

● Dick Douglas, MP for Dunfermline West, who defected from Labour to the Scottish National Party last year, said yesterday that he would stand against Donald Dewar, the shadow Scottish secretary, in his Glasgow Garscaddon constituency, at the next election.



Lang: already facing risk of revolt at party conference

Forensic director justifies charges

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE charging system for forensic science services may hamper some minor criminal investigations, but will offer taxpayers better value for money, Janet Thompson, director of the Forensic Science Service, said yesterday.

Speaking on the eve of the official launch of the service as an executive agency, Dr Thompson said: "It is perfectly possible that in the past we did some work which was not very useful such as spending £1,000 in the lab working on a £25 criminal damage case. But it didn't happen very often. Because we now know precisely what our costs are and have an even better grasp of the police's needs, we will be offering much better value for money."

Earlier this week the West Midlands police said they had been forced to devise stricter guidelines governing the use of forensic services because of the charging procedure. The force has allocated £1.25 million this year for forensic work, although it estimates it needs £1.6 million. Dr Thompson acknowledged that the move will have to be more selective in their use of her scientists.

From today the six Home Office forensic science laboratories in England and Wales will be run at arm's length from Whitehall by an executive agency. Ministers claim the move will unshackle the service, making it more cost-efficient. However, for some of the 400 scientists who help to solve crimes by analysing blood, alcohol and other samples, the celebratory launch will ring hollow.

They believe the result will simply be a further lowering in clear-up rates and yet greater despondency within the service. Many police officers are only slightly less pessimistic.

Under the new regime, the service will have a duty to charge for its services case-by-case and on strictly commercial lines. This is expected to lead to a big increase in costs for many police forces, though some smaller, rural constabularies may find themselves in pocket.

The Institution of Professionals, Managers and Specialists, which represents most of the scientists, said Home Office forensic ministers were being over-simplistic in the way they were seeking to impose a "free-market" approach on the service.

Fears that the changes would prompt police to reduce the number of samples they sent were endorsed by David Owen, chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers. "Some forces are simply not going to have the resources to maintain their current investigative workloads," he said.

He expected the cost of forensic services to his north Wales force to rise to £400,000 this year, almost double the figure for 1988-9. Several forces, including Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South Wales and West Midlands, face rises of more than 50 per cent.



Star appeal: photographers flocked towards Marilyn Monroe look-alike Pauline Bailey in one of the star's swimsuits, which sold for £13,200 yesterday, while Sara Lee modelled a Madonna outfit which failed to sell

Monroe's £13,200 swimsuit washes Madonna away

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

A SWIMSUIT once generously occupied by Marilyn Monroe was sold for £13,200 (three times estimate), as she maintained her place as the most desirable film memorabilia subject at Christie's, South Kensington yesterday. The living legend, Madonna, was shunned when a gold lurex top with alluring designer holes at the shoulders and elbows failed to attract interest.

Monroe's swimsuit was bought by David Gainsborough Roberts, of Jersey, who already owns three of her costumes. He plans to place the suit in his private museum alongside Hitler's wallet, Al Capone's cigarette lighter and Bonnie and Clyde's sawn-off shotgun.

The one-piece swimsuit in black cotton has not actually appeared on the screen. It was used for publicity shots for the film *There's no Business like Showbusiness* in 1954.

Beatles memorabilia also sold strongly, although at a lower price range of £1,000 to £2,000, while a leather jacket used in a George Michael video, bearing the slogan "Rockers and Re-

venge", went for £1,760.

□ Prospects for the London Impressionist season looked brighter yesterday when Sotheby's announced that it would be auctioning 13 Impressionist paintings and drawings from the Chester Beatty collection on June 25.

The works, by artists such as Toulouse-Lautrec, Degas and Renoir, along with fourteen 20th century works, are tentatively estimated at £12 million. They are the final group of works from the estate of the American-born mining magnate who lived in London from 1911 until his death in 1968, and follow the dispersal of much of Beatty's collection, which reached a climax with the auction, at Christie's in 1986, of Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* for the world record price of £24 million.

□ Buyers with £55 million and a taste for asymmetry and organic form, have a chance to buy the Casa Batlló, an 1870s apartment block in Barcelona — one of the last two domestic commissions by Antoni Gaudí, the celebrated Catalan architect. It is being offered by Sotheby's.

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collection of writing instruments in London. These include the latest pens from Mont Blanc, exquisite hand-lacquered pen and pencil sets by Waterman, along with pens that are mightier than any sword by Parker, Sheaffer, Lamy, Cross and many other illustrious names.

Also downstairs, you will find a brand new department called Executive Leather and Games.

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board meeting. And at the end of those 14 hour days, why not amuse yourself with one of the many grown up games from the same department.

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By David G. Brown for
THE Conservatives
pulled three points clear
Labour in 50 marginal seats
that the party must win to
in power after the next
poll, according to an opinion
poll published today.
The poll, for the Labour
Party, shows a four-point
lead over Labour in a
Thursday's local elections.
Polls last weekend put Labour
at 40 per cent and the Tories at 40
cent each. According to the
however, 44 per cent of voters
in the marginal seats would
vote Conservative in a general
election. According to the
survey, Labour's share of
vote would remain unchanged
at 40 per cent and the Tories
Democrats would get 14
cent, a big improvement
their position. The 13
cent swing to the Tories
however, not enough to
sure the party a work
majority in the Commons.
Asked about their vote
intentions in the municipal
elections on Thursday, 41
cent of the 971 electors in 1
most marginal Tory seat
questioned, said that it
would support the Tories a
37 per cent said that it
would support the Labour
Democrats, confirming
predictions that the party will
better in the council elections.

Countdown to Plump for Ma

AN AIR of puzzlement
settled yesterday around
polling stations in Douglas
Isle of Man, as it often
during recent elections. Voters
turned out to choose
their middle ranks of the
government and
one more with the
method of election by
single transferable
(STV) with "plumping".

The plump, as it is known
to the architects of the STV
electoral system, was put
on to STV at the last
election and replaced a
simple method of appointing
the first candidate to
pass the post. The aim was
to mollify the Manx dislike
of appearing to vote
measures which attract public
disapproval.

Hence the House of Keble
the oldest continuous parliament
in the world, has been
unable to bring itself to
legalise homosexuality.
twelve consenting men
spite of pressure from Westminster,
the European Court of Human Rights
and, paradoxically, the fact
that this is the Isle of Man.

The STV requires electors
to give an ordered preference
for the candidate which in a relatively small
community could mean
putting a mark against the
name of someone considered
to be beyond the pale.
Mike Savage, chief executive
in the department of local government and

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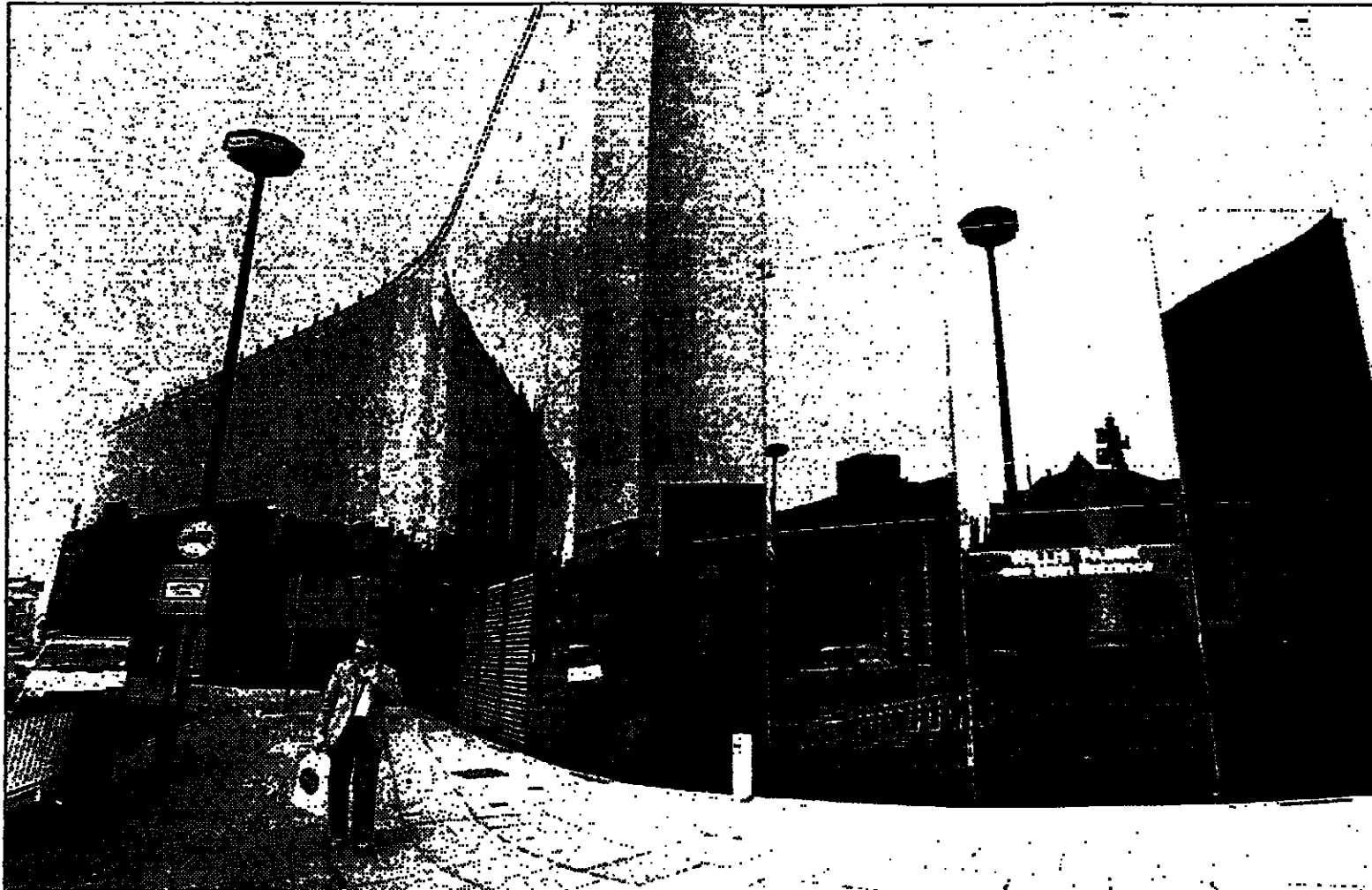
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throats.

Conservatives pull clear of Labour in 50 marginals

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservatives have pulled three points clear of Labour in 50 marginal seats that the party must win to stay in power after the next election, according to an opinion poll published today. The NOP survey for the *Local Government Chronicle* also gives the Tories a four-point lead over Labour in next Thursday's local elections. Polls last weekend put Labour and the Tories at 40 per cent each. According to NOP, however, 43 per cent of voters in the marginals would now vote Conservative in a general election. According to the survey, Labour's share of the vote would remain unchanged at 40 per cent and the Liberal Democrats would get 14 per cent, a big improvement in their position. The 3.5 per cent swing to the Tories is, however, not enough to ensure the party a working majority in the Commons. Asked about their voting intentions in the municipal elections on Thursday, 41 per cent of the 971 electors in the 50 most marginal Tory seats questioned said that they would support the Tories and 37 per cent Labour. A further 19 per cent said that they would support the Liberal Democrats, confirming predictions that the party will do better in the council elections than in a general election. The improvement in Conservative fortunes is more dramatic when compared to a similar NOP poll in the same seats this time last year when the poll tax had been introduced. Then, 56 per cent of voters supported Labour, 30 per cent the Conservatives and 8 per cent the Liberal Democrats. The latest survey was held on April 17, six days before the announcement of the council tax to replace the community charge but after the government had announced that the poll tax was to be abolished. Asked how they thought local government should raise income, 43 per cent favoured Labour's plan for a reformed rating system and 24 per cent the Liberal Democrat's local income tax. Only 15 per cent supported a property and personal tax such as the government's proposed council tax. Conservative Central Office declined to comment but David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said that it did not bear out Labour's canvassing returns. "It is good to see that a third of Tory voters support our alternative," he added. Alan Beith, Liberal Democrat local government spokesman, said that the poll confirmed his party's strength.



Reflected glory: The Willis Faber headquarters in Ipswich, Suffolk, which achieved a place in the record books yesterday as the first building of the Seventies to be listed as of architectural and historic

interest. Its designation is all the more remarkable in that it has been given grade one status, a distinction usually reserved for the masterpieces of earlier centuries. The only other post-war buildings to be

similarly classified are Coventry cathedral and the Festival Hall. Until yesterday the most recent buildings to be listed were the Commonwealth Institute in Kensington and The Economist offices in

St James's Street, City of London, which are both classed as grade two starred. The Ipswich building was designed for Willis, Faber and Dumas, insurance brokers, by Sir Norman Foster.

Heritage group lists its successes

By JOHN YOUNG

MODERN architecture and planning "is producing an environment that is not only a visual disgrace, but is becoming an economic and ecological nonsense as well". Those words appeared in the first report by the campaigning conservation group, Save Britain's Heritage, published in the *Architects' Journal* in December 1975. Since then the group, has become the most effective lobbying group in its field. The group dates its inception from *The Destruction of the Country House*, the exhibition staged by Sir Roy Strong in 1974. It adopted the cause not only of country houses, but of churches, urban terraces, cottages, hospitals, factories, stations, public houses, and gardens. In the hope of enlisting support, it is publishing a book next week listing its achievements and offering advice on practical steps to preserve our heritage. *Action Guide*, published by Collins and Brown at £6.99, will be available in bookshops or direct from SAVE, 68 Battersea High Street, London, SW11 3HX, £7.50.

Countdown to the local elections Plumping puzzle for Manx voters

AN AIR of puzzlement settled yesterday around polling stations in Douglas, Isle of Man, as it often has during recent elections. Voters turned out to choose their middle ranks of local government and grapple once more with the arcane method of selection by the single transferable vote (STV) with "plumping".

The plump, as it is known to the architects of the Manx electoral system, was grafted on to STV at the last general election and replaced the simple method of appointing the first candidate to pass the post. The aim was to mollify the Manx dislike of appearing to vote for measures which attract public disapproval.

Hence the House of Keys, the oldest continuous parliament in the world, has been unable to bring itself to legalise homosexuality between consenting men in spite of pressure from Westminster, the European Court of Human Rights and, paradoxically, the fact that this is the Isle of Man.

The STV requires electors to give an ordered preference for the candidates, which in a relatively small community could mean putting a mark against the name of someone considered to be beyond the pale. Mike Savage, chief executive in the department of local government and the

Four names, three vacancies and a "plump" can be a problem, writes Ronald Faux

environment, said: "They often put it this way: 'I could put Margaret Thatcher first and Neil Kinnock second but never Screaming Lord Sutch third. I simply would not want to vote for him.'"

"Voters would not want to acknowledge that Screaming Lord Sutch, or whoever, had a place in the scheme of things." As a result, STV was extended to allow voters to "plump" for one candidate with a cross. That is accepted by the returning officer as a valid preference.

Charles "Buster" Lewin, clerk to the Braddon Commissioners, said: "It is a hybrid STV system that is halfway to nowhere. People do not understand what to do when they are confronted with four names for three vacancies and the chance to plump. A blank look comes over them as they go into the voting booth."

That may not help the fact that Manx elections for the town, district, village and parish councils attract so few voters or candidates. "The system here is quite unlike that on the mainland," Mr Lewin said. "There are no party politics."



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Promising drug test results offer hope to Alzheimer patients

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A DRUG used experimentally to treat Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of senile dementia, has improved the memory and mental abilities of some sufferers, British researchers report today.

The drug could become the first effective treatment for the disease if further studies support its early promise. A study in *The Lancet* today by researchers at the Institute of Psychiatry in south-east London shows that the drug, called tacrine, produced significant symptomatic improvement in 45 per cent of patients with mild to moderate forms of the condition.

The husband of one patient given the drug for three months told the researchers that his elderly wife was now enjoying her life "rather than existing on the edge of oblivion". Two years earlier, she had been withdrawn, seldom smiled, could not tell the time, and did not know what day it was. She now woke up every morning, knowing the day of the week, the husband said. Raymond Levy, professor of old-age psychiatry, who led

the study, said yesterday: "The drug represents an important first step in the symptomatic treatment of this disease."

Alzheimer's is the most common progressive brain disorder. Sufferers gradually lose memory and personality, and become increasingly confused.

The trial involved 89 patients who were given a daily dose either of the drug or a placebo. Nineteen of the patients were withdrawn from the study because of side-effects, and five others withdrew for other reasons, leaving 65 who completed the treatment.

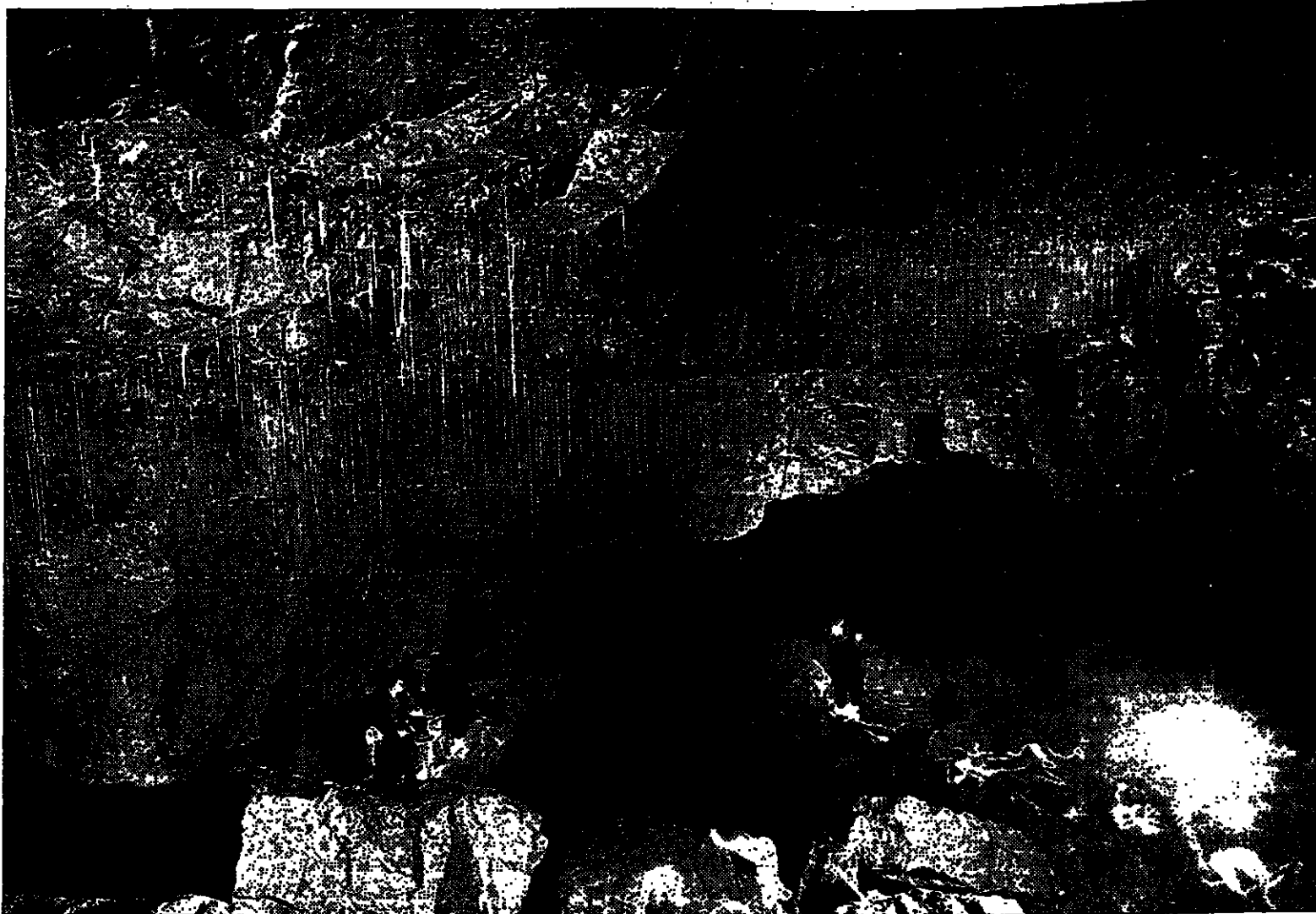
They were then given a series of tests to judge their memory and mental abilities. The tests showed that 45 per cent of those given tacrine had a significant improvement, compared to 11 per cent in the placebo group. The side-effects included early signs of liver damage and nausea. The benefits were most evident in patients' perceptual and attentional functions, but there were some improvements in short-term memory. The pa-

tients' abilities to do everyday things were not enhanced.

"The drug can improve symptoms perhaps for a year or two in some of the patients, but eventually it is likely that these patients will deteriorate. We do not expect tacrine to affect the basic disease process," Professor Levy said.

"There is no effective treatment, and although tacrine is by no means the complete answer, it is an important step forward, and I would expect to see further advances in the next few years. Reversing Alzheimer's disease is not out of the question, but it is going to be very difficult."

Tacrine is not a new drug. It was developed more than 30 years ago to play a role in anaesthesia, and was used to overcome the effects of morphine, but has fallen into disuse. The drug was supplied to the researchers by Shire Pharmaceuticals, a British company which subsequently sold its interest in it to Parke-Davis, an American firm with a subsidiary in Easington, Hampshire. A trial of the drug among American patients has just been completed.



Underworld figures: Britain's largest accessible cavern, the Battlefield chamber at Ingleton, North Yorkshire, which is to open to the public on May 1 after work costing £170,000. The ice-age cavern, part of the four-mile White Scar cave

system, had been accessible only to pot-holers since its discovery in 1974 (Nigel Burnham writes). White Scar Caves Ltd, the company which operates the system, has bored a 61-metre tunnel, allowing walkers to reach the chamber from

the end of an existing show cave a quarter of a mile away. Before reaching the 300ft long, 90ft wide and 60ft high Battlefield chamber, visitors will have a clear view of a stream below through metal walkway grilles. In the chamber they will

find straw stalactites and cracked mudflows so far seen by fewer than 100 pot-holers who have reached the chamber by squeezing through a narrow, sometimes flooded, passage. The round trip of almost a mile will take about an hour.

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Animators draw children to Bard

By MELINDA WHITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

IF EDUCATIONISTS are denying many British schoolchildren the chance to study Shakespeare, Welsh animators are trying to make up for the omission with an animated series of the Bard's plays for the BBC.

As the Prince of Wales criticised Shakespeare's exclusion from some curricula, S4C, the Welsh television channel, was taking orders at the international MIP TV programme market in Cannes for the new series, to be screened in the autumn. *Shakespeare - The Animated Tales*, a £3.5 million project to produce six plays, is designed to capture the imagination of young children and teenagers.

Christopher Grace, head of animation at S4C, said: "Our ideas have coincided with those of the prince. We've been getting the same feedback - that kids are finding the language difficult and inaccessible. Only by turning Shakespeare into a contemporary and exciting art form will millions of children around the world become interested in it."

The half-hour adaptations, which will use original text, have been written by Leon Garfield, the children's author and Shakespearean scholar. He has been working closely with Birmingham university's Shakespeare institute to ensure the animated versions of the condensed classics maintain the spirit and integrity of the original plays.

Stanley Wells, professor of Shakespeare studies at the university and director of its Shakespeare institute, who shared the platform with the prince at his lecture in Stratford-upon-Avon on Monday, is the principal adviser to the television

project. The animation breaks all cartoon clichés. A 60-second version of the opening scene of *Macbeth* had enough American and German buyers knocking at S4C's door as long ago as last September to encourage the channel to start production on five more - *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet* and *The Tempest*.

The quality of the animation, created by Soyuzmultfilm, the Soviet equivalent



Child's play: a witch in the cartoon *Macbeth*

of Walt Disney and the series' 50 per cent equity partner, make Disney's *Fantasia* look rather pedestrian by comparison. The music will be performed by the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra.

The ambitious international co-production also involves BBC Wales, Home Box Office, the US cable company, HIT Communications, the UK family programming distributor and Fujisankei, the Japanese media group. S4C and its partners have now commissioned a second series of seven more Shakespearean plays.

Guinness ruling later

Three appeal court judges yesterday reserved judgment on an appeal from Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness group chairman, against his conviction and five-year jail sentence for his part in the takeover battle for control of Distillers in 1987. Lord Justice Neill, Mr Justice Owen and Mr Justice Ognall are expected to deliver their findings in a fortnight. They will also rule on appeals by the Gerald Ronson, head of the Heron Group, who was jailed for a year and fined £5 million, and the stockbroker Anthony Parnes, jailed for 30 months.

Flying again

Squadron Leader John Mardon, who had a heart and lung transplant eight months ago, begins flying Jaguar operational jets again today at RAF Coltishall, Norfolk.

Crash kills four

Four people died when their car crashed into a tree and burst into flames at Howe Green, Chelmsford, Essex.

Grenade raider

A man wearing a gas mask and apparently carrying a hand grenade robbed a bank in Weyhill, Hampshire.

Library arson

Petrol bombers destroyed 20,000 books in a £1 million attack on the children's section of Birmingham central library.

Jailed for killing

Raymond Goodchild, of Bushey, Hertfordshire, who punched a man in an argument over a parking space, was jailed at the Central Criminal Court for two years for manslaughter.

Claim dropped

Dallas Bonnell, a model, withdrew her £100,000 High Court medical negligence claim over an alleged failed abortion.

Back from Gulf

The minehunters Atherstone, Hurworth and Catistock have returned to Portsmouth after six months in the Gulf.

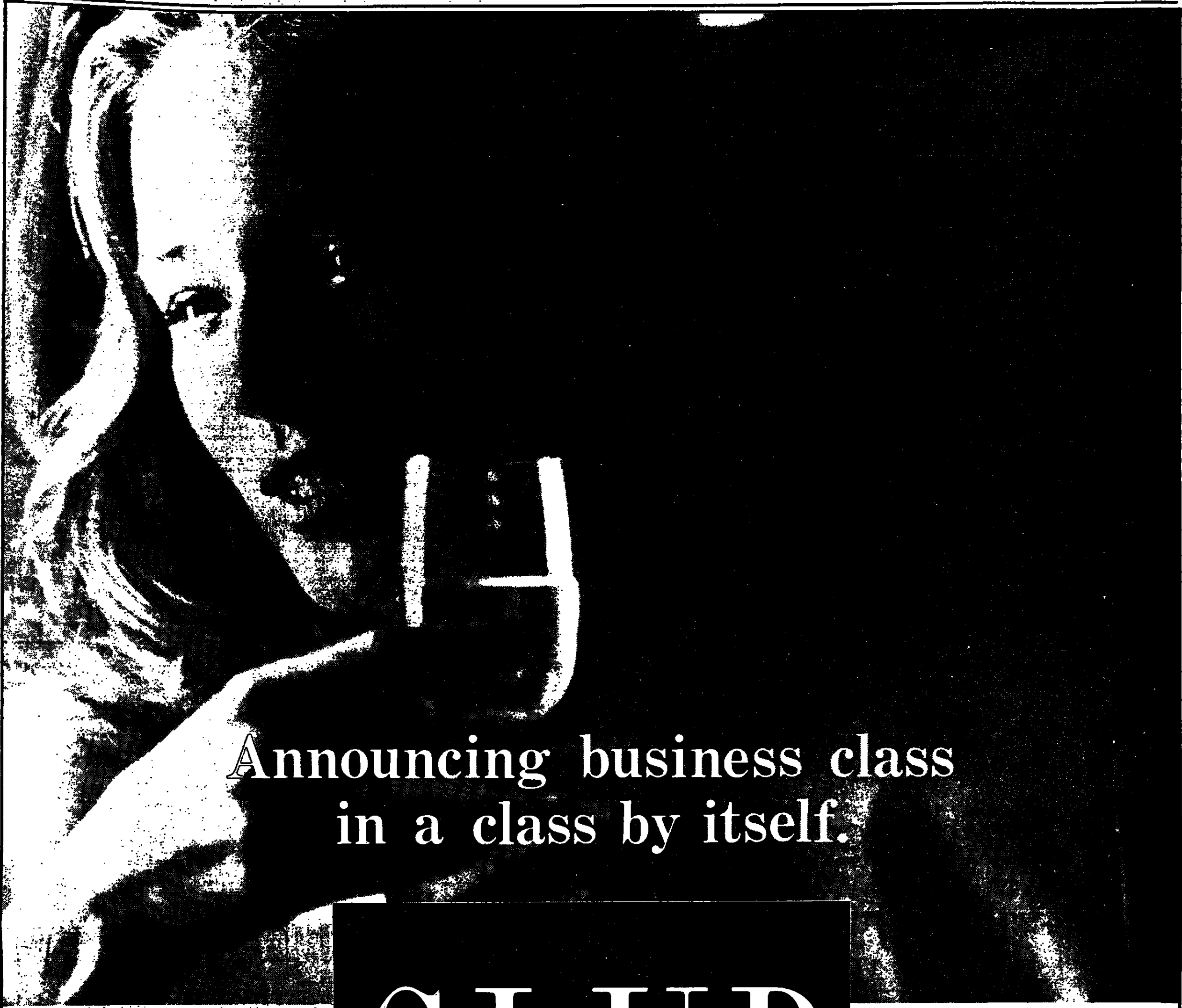
Drugs seized

Drugs worth £200,000 were seized from a Nigerian cargo ship which docked at Dublin.

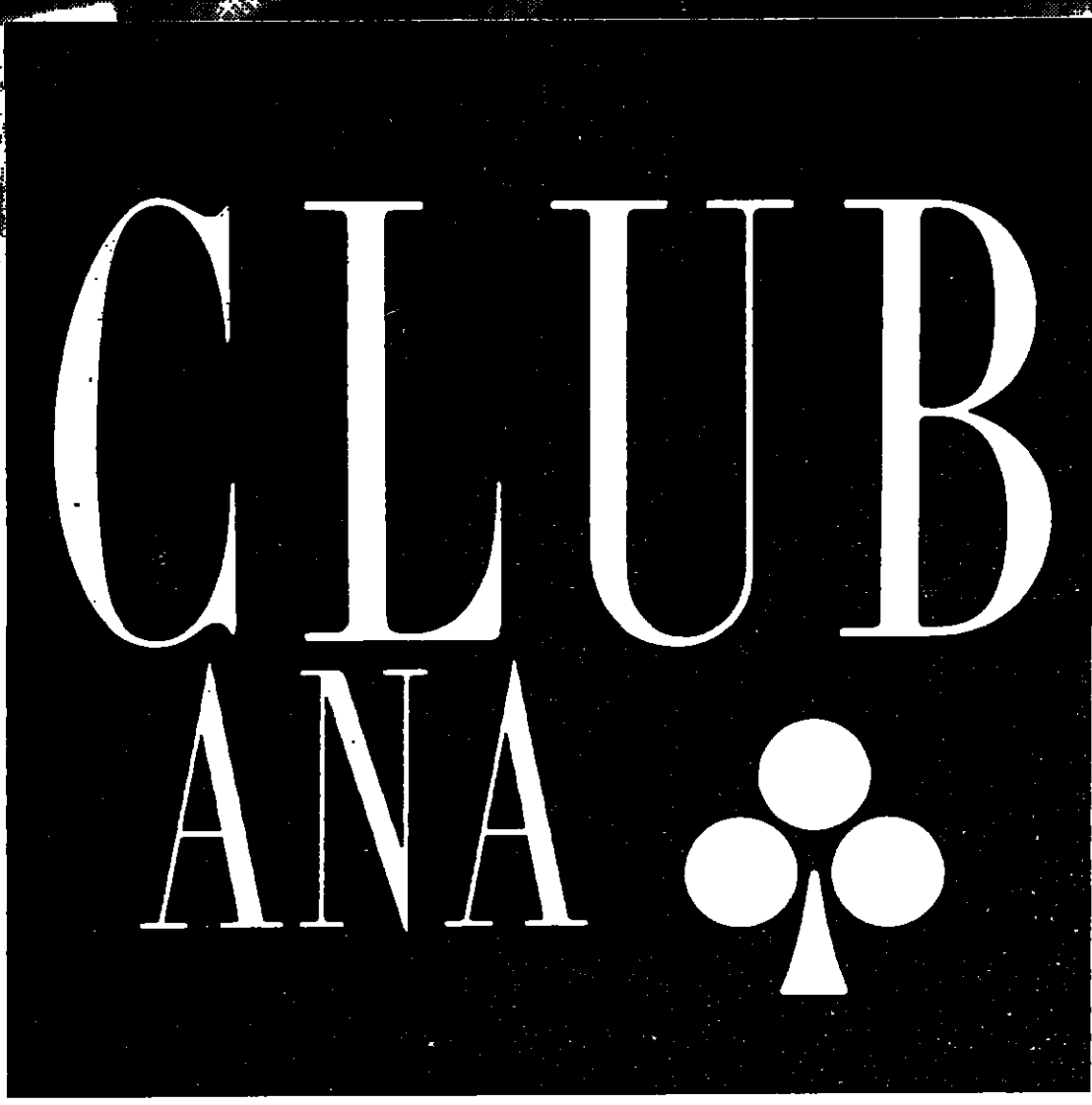
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200,000 jobs lost in first quarter, says Labour study

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 200,000 job losses, the highest quarterly figure since the early Eighties, were recorded during the first three months of the year, according to a Labour survey, last night that the party claimed presented a frightening picture of a deepening recession.

Further indications that the recession is biting hardest in the Conservative heartlands came with the survey's finding that nearly 40,000 of the job losses occurred in the South-east.

The survey, conducted by Henry McLeish, a shadow employment minister, claimed that the trickle of losses in the third and fourth quarters of last year had turned to a flood. Mr McLeish said that it reinforced predictions that unemployment could exceed 2.5 million by the autumn and rise to three million next year.

Gordon Brown, shadow trade and industry secretary, said that Labour calculated that 100,000 jobs in manufacturing had been lost in the past six months, bringing the total to more than two million under Conservative governments since 1979.

Today the Labour leadership will maintain its assault

on the government when John Smith, the shadow chancellor, alleges that its goal of reducing income tax to 20p would cost £29 billion in lost tax revenue. Mr Smith is expected to say in a lecture at Stirling university that there is no plausible economic or social justification for such a giveaway. He will allege that such a large cut would run serious risks with inflation.

The jobs survey is based on an analysis of announcements of job losses and jobs at risk carried in regional and national newspapers in the first quarter of this year. Transport, telecommunications and energy jobs accounted for 34 per cent of the losses.

The survey said that job losses announced in the first quarter of this year were 232 per cent higher than those recorded in the previous quarter, and the number of jobs at risk was estimated to stand at a million. It added: "The very high level of jobs at risk revealed by our survey contradicts the rather optimistic views of the economy now being put forward by the government who increasingly talk of the recession bottoming out and of economic growth due to return in the second half of the year."

Mr Brown said that the regional breakdown of manufacturing employment showed that it had fallen by 33 per cent in the North, 34 per cent in Yorkshire and Humberside, 35 per cent in the Southeast and 38 per cent in the West Midlands.



McLeish: slump hitting hardest in Tory heartlands

"As investment falls, bankruptcies increase, productivity declines, unit costs increase, vacancies slump, unemployment rises, job losses accelerate and employment growth is reversed against a background of intensifying international competition; the government faces a deepening economic and political crisis."

The survey emphasised the scale of job losses in the Southeast and said that the impact of the recession on sectors such as defence and financial services would ensure a prominent role for the South in the continuing political battle over jobs. It added that, unlike the recession of the early Eighties, when there was a shake-out of jobs in the traditional areas of productive industry, the present slump was exposing chronic structural weaknesses in key sectors that previously were unaffected.

Mr Brown said that the regional breakdown of manufacturing employment showed that it had fallen by 33 per cent in the North, 34 per cent in Yorkshire and Humberside, 35 per cent in the Southeast and 38 per cent in the West Midlands.

He was speaking in the Lords after hearing concern by Lord Stoddart of Swindon, a Labour peer, that the mothers involved would not be able to maintain their children and that in many cases the whole cost would fall on the taxpayer.

Mackay approves virgin births

By PETER MULLIGAN

THE Lord Chancellor gave his legal blessing yesterday to "virgin births" in which women opt for artificial insemination but decide never to have a male partner.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern said that there was nothing in embryology legislation passed last year to prevent an unmarried woman without a partner from receiving treatment to enable her to carry a child. He made clear, however, that prospective mothers should not be treated by clinics unless account had been taken of the welfare of the child including the child's need for a father.

He also told peers during report stage of the Child Support bill that donors of sperm used to conceive children in this way would not be pursued under a bill designed to make errant fathers responsible for supporting their children. "It would be wrong for somebody who had in a public-spirited act donated sperm on the understanding that he would not have any parental status of liability to be forced to maintain a child born as a result."

He was speaking in the Lords after hearing concern by Lord Stoddart of Swindon, a Labour peer, that the mothers involved would not be able to maintain their children and that in many cases the whole cost would fall on the taxpayer.

Heath's lavish praise of Major upsets right

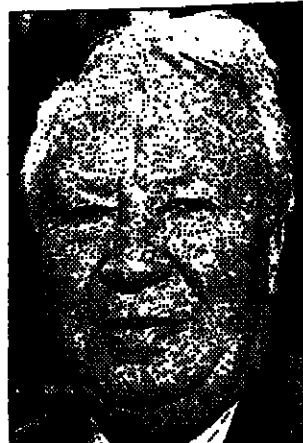
By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

IN A move likely to intensify the prime minister's problems with right wingers and the Euro-sceptic wing of the Conservative party, Edward Heath bestowed lavish praise on John Major's European policies yesterday, suggesting that he represented a clean break with the Thatcher years.

Mr Major's initial presentation of the Kurdish safe havens plan to European Community leaders rather than to America, Mr Heath said, was an example of how a common European foreign policy should work.

The former prime minister told the closing dinner of the "Future of Europe" conference of the British Atlantic Group of Young Politicians last night: "I made no secret of the fact that I had been frustrated by the approach of the former British government towards the European Community over the last 12 years. However, the election of John Major as the leader of the Conservative party last November has greatly improved the position. His impact on Britain's attitude to the European Community has been formidable."

Mr Heath praised the prime minister's personal success as Chancellor of the Exchequer in winning the political argument within the cabinet for British entry to the exchange-rate mechanism of the European monetary system, saying



Heath: Major is clean break with Thatcherism

tardy that his predecessor, Nigel Lawson, no friend of Mr Heath, had been trying for years to secure the move without success. He added: "Now as prime minister John Major is taking dramatic steps to re-establish Britain at the forefront of the development of the Community. To hear John Major say [in Bonn earlier this year] that he wants Britain to be at the heart of Europe was truly welcome."

The prime minister's personal launching of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London, Mr Heath said, was a clear sign that Britain was willing and ready to take substantive steps towards a more integrated Europe.

Mr Heath, who advised those in the audience at a recent Tory party conference not to applaud him because it might annoy their neighbours, knows that his commendation is a mixed blessing. And there may have been an element of wishful thinking in his speech: Mr Major remains opposed, as Margaret Thatcher was, to a single European currency and to an independent European central bank, while Mr Heath last night said that both were only a matter of time.

He managed a grudging reference to Mr Major's hard-earned plan, saying: "Should we have to go through the cumbersome process of having a common currency alongside the national currency for a while to satisfy political niceties, so be it."

As well as backing a common European foreign policy, Mr Heath said: "It seems absurd to argue that the European Community should remain outside a common defence policy". Some European governments favoured working through the Western European Union for such a policy, so that when its treaty expires in 1998 it would become incorporated in the Community, but Mr Heath said that he favoured the creation of a new institution.



Building society accused

The management of a building society was accused during prime minister's questions of intimidating its staff after they had voted to join a trade union. Chris Mullin, Labour MP for Sunderland South, said that in a secret ballot employees at the North of England Building Society voted by 257 votes to 81 to join the Banking and Finance Union. In response, the management had embarked on the programme of intimidation designed to get employees to resign.

Mr Major replied that if the facts were as Mr Mullin had stated, both sides should be bound by the agreement.

Car charge

The government is asking more than 50 organisations and employers for their views on the best way of collecting the new national insurance charge on employers who provide company cars and fuel for employees' private use.

Spring recess

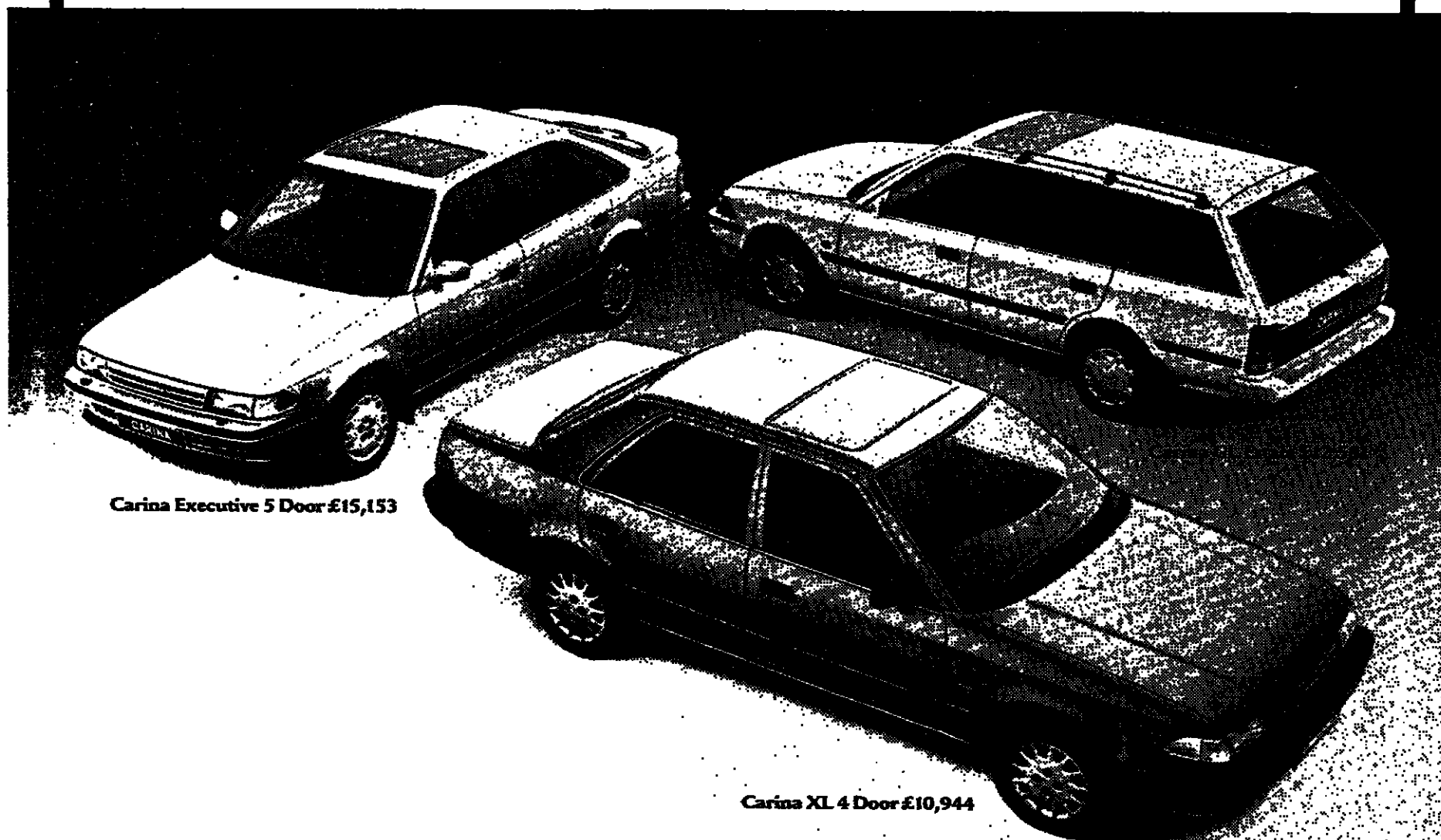
The Commons will rise for the spring recess on Thursday May 23 until Monday June 3. Parliament will not sit on May 6, the May Day holiday.

Transplants



The prime minister said at question time that he hoped that organ transplants would be among the topics covered during his weekend meeting with health professionals at Chequers. Sir Michael McNair-Wilson (above), Tory MP for Newbury, had told him that 5,000 people were awaiting transplants and the number of organ donations for transplants needed to double.

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TOYOTA CARINA

Venue hunt proves first obstacle in way of Ulster talks

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH and Irish ministers meet today for the last meeting of the Anglo-Irish conference before the opening of talks next week on the political future of Northern Ireland.

Discussions are continuing between officials from both governments on the venue for the second strand of the negotiations which will involve the Irish Republic in talks with politicians from North-

ern Ireland about links between the two parts of the island.

Finding a place for the second stage of the talks that takes account of the political sensitivities of the various delegations is likely to prove a taxing problem. Unionist politicians are reluctant to go to Dublin and, for equally symbolic reasons, the Irish Republic's government is unlikely to want the talks to be held at Stormont on the outskirts of Belfast. If the talks are not held at Stormont, ministers need to consider practicalities including security and the need to install facilities for the delegations and the media.

Peter Brooke, secretary of state for Northern Ireland, will hold a series of talks with representatives from the North's political parties at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. The outline of an agenda will be discussed as well as matters such as the make-up of each party's delegation of ten members, the facilities with which they will be provided and the financial allowances they will receive.

The first plenary session at which the two Unionist parties, the Social Democratic and Labour party, the Alliance party and the government begin the search for a devolved administration for the province is likely to be on either May 7 or 8.

The talks are scheduled to be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week, with all three stages of the initiative expected to conclude by the middle of July. Mr Brooke will head the British delegation, with the assistance of Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Northern Ireland minister of state.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

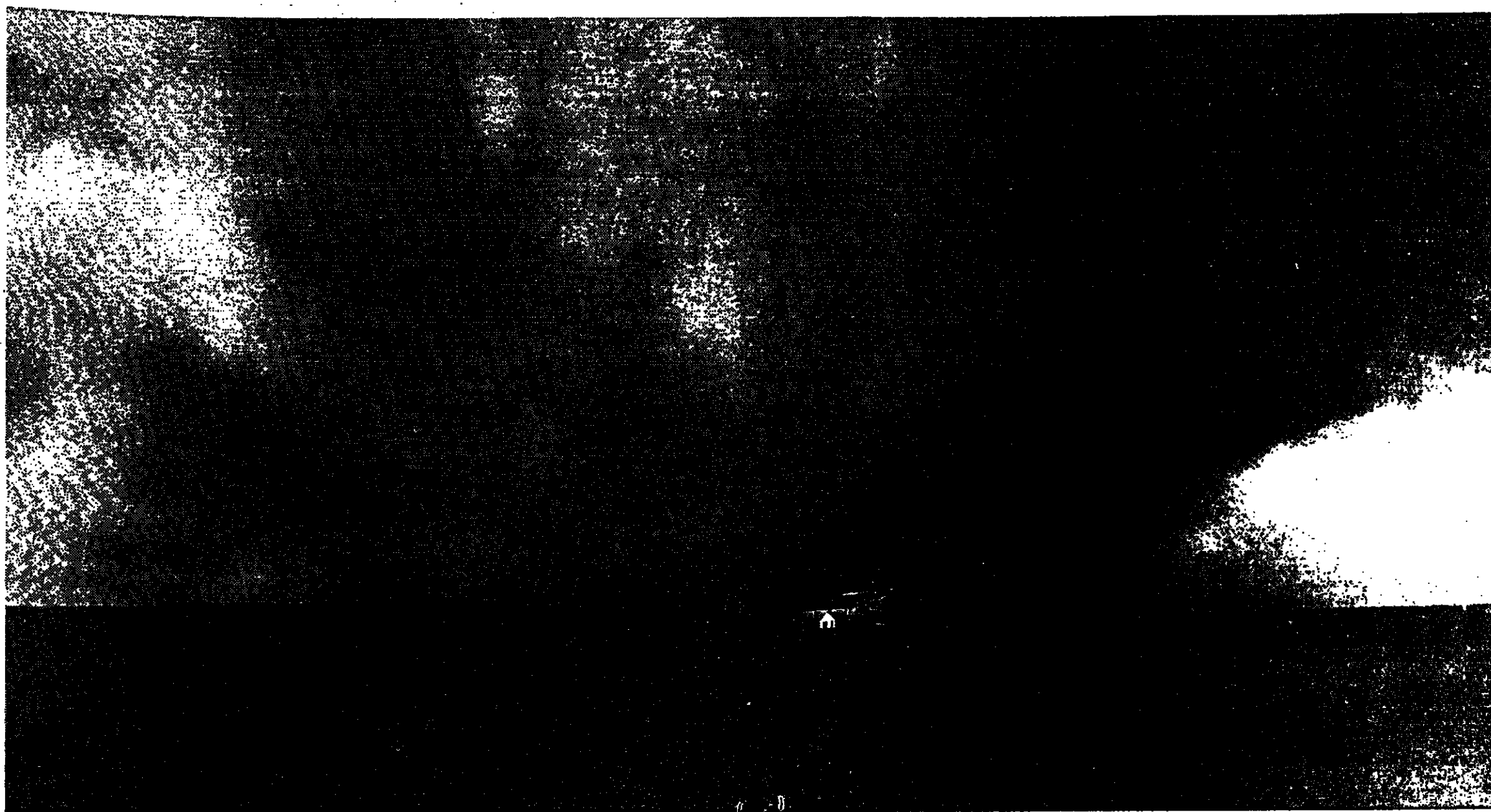
Monday: School teachers' pay and conditions (No 2) bill, second reading.
Tuesday: Finance bill, second reading.
Wednesday: Debate on broadcasting the Commons. Debate on reports of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration and the health service commissioner.
Thursday: Debate on the RAF.
Friday: Private members' bills.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be:
Monday: Child support bill, report, second day.
Tuesday: War crimes bill, second reading.
Wednesday: Debate on education and vocational training.
Thursday: Road traffic bill, committee.

Parliament today
Commons (9.30): Private members' bills: Radioactive material (road transport) bill, pig husbandry bill, and registered homes (amendment) bill, remaining stages.

INTERCITY

A Lake District farmhouse as seen from a Penrith to Euston train.



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KURDISH DEAL

Shia leaders urge rebels not to trust Saddam

By ADAM KELLIHER IN BAGHDAD AND
MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ yesterday insisted that its deal with the Kurdish rebels on autonomy had been reached in good faith. But if the agreement is to succeed, it will have to address a total lack of trust among Kurds after years of ill-fated rebellions and bloody repression.

The accord has dismayed Iraqi Shia opposition groups committed to the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein. They urged Kurdish rebels not to finalise it. The agreement could tear Saddam in power for years, they said, and enable him to commit more resources to repressing Iraq's Shi'as, according to the al-Dawa party, an influential opposition group based in Iran. "It will deal a heavy blow to the struggle to topple Saddam and he doesn't keep his promises," a party spokesman said.

Other Shia opposition groups in Iran, sympathetic to the plight of Kurdish refugees, did not openly condemn the agreement. But they expressed concern that it would lead to mounting repression of Saddam's other rivals and recalled that the Kurds were part of a 17-party alliance of anti-Saddam Iraqi groups forged last December.

Iraq's Shi'as, who comprise 55 per cent of the population, were the first to revolt against Saddam after the Gulf war, but were also the first to be crushed. When the Kurdish delegation first went to Baghdad on Saturday, Shia groups said it was a betrayal of the thousands who had lost their lives in the uprising.

Iran, although deeply opposed to the possibility of any agreement that could lead to a breakaway Kurdish state, welcomed the agreement, which it hopes will remove a million Kurdish refugees from its soil.

In Baghdad, the prime minister, Sadoun Hammadi, said Iraq hoped to find "an objective, patriotic national solution" to the plight of the Kurds through negotiations based on a self-rule package formed more than two decades ago. He refused to elaborate on the negotiations.

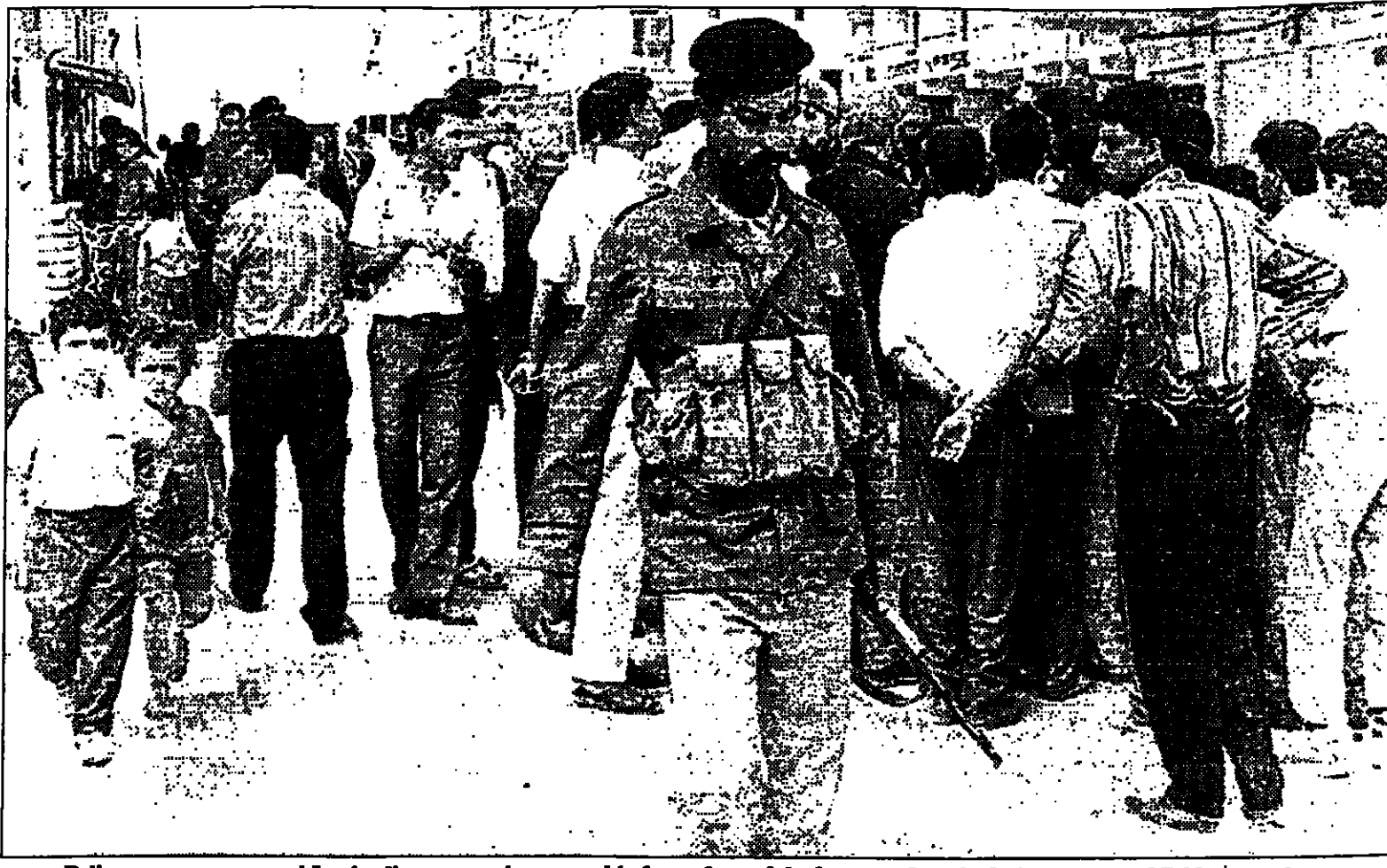
Jalal al-Talabani, the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said talks involving a coalition of eight groups, including his own party, had yielded broad agreement based on the March 11, 1970 autonomy proposal.

He said Masoud Barzani, the leader of the other main opposition group, the Kurdistan Democratic party, also supported the proposal and would visit Baghdad next week to finalise the details.

Mr Talabani called on Kurds to return home immediately, saying "We do not want another Armenia." He would not give any specifics about the agreement, but appeared confident of success, saying of the relationship between the government and the rebels, that "we can't topple them, but they can't crush us".

The 1970 plan granted Kurds power over their educational, economic and cultural affairs, but left Baghdad with control of foreign policy, defence, issuing currency and extracting oil from the region.

On paper, the agreement seemed liberal, but in reality many of its parts remained unimplemented, with Kurdish opposition groups wanting greater property purchasing rights and a percentage of oil revenue. They also wanted more power to appoint officials, giving no credence to an elected legislature, from which the central government a puppet executive committee.



Police presence: an armed Iraqi policeman passing a crowd in front of one of the few open shops in the border town of Zakho yesterday

AID MISSION

Hail of Kurdish bullets meets UN team

FROM ADAM KELLIHER IN BAGHDAD

ONLY poor marksmanship saved the lives of a delegation of senior UN officials, whose expedition to bridge the confidence gap between Kurds and the Iraqi government ran straight into a fusillade of bullets fired by Kurdish guerrillas.

This correspondent was among those shot at on the fact-finding mission led by Bernd Bernander, the special envoy of Prince Sadruddin Khan who is co-ordinating the UN's entire relief programme, and is the highest ranking UN official in Iraq.

A UN helicopter took the party, which included six UN officials and two Red Cross representatives, to the northern town of Sulaymaniyah, where we met the acting governor and then on Wednesday afternoon, travelled out to a point where refugees were returning. The drive took us on the road to Iran, past derelict army facilities and people scouring rub-

bish piles in search of food. The incoming road was busy with the stream of refugees, coming home by car, truck, bus, tractor and foot at a rate, officials say, is now of about 4,000 people a day.

There is an arrogant habit among Iraqis on official business to pay only derisory attention to roadblocks, and so at a military checkpoint outside Arbad village, some 60 miles from Iran, the driver of the lead car merely slowed down for the sentries, and with a wave accelerated away.

The other four cars, also government-issue sedans with no number plates, followed and we drove on through the landscape of undulating wheat fields, viewing the refugees and widespread damage caused during the rebellion.

After passing over a small rise, the lead car bearing Mr Bernander braked suddenly at the start of a bridge about 60 yards before another road-

block. We in the second car

swerved to avoid a collision. But this was a different roadblock, manned by large bearded men with turbans, baggy trousers and guns. My driver hissed "peshmerga" but by then, the driver of the lead car had panicked and started to irrationally reverse his vehicle.

The first guard immediately fired a full clip of bullets and about three others joined in. For a ghastly 10 seconds all five cars were caught in the middle of the road, each driver struggling to turn around within the random spray of lead. In the stream that ran beneath the bridge about six other rebels were washing. They lunged for their guns and also opened fire.

All of the occupants of my car instinctively placed our heads between our knees, the driver slumping in his seat as he turned and screeched off. Amid the gunfire, one's thoughts became pretty prosaic. "Why is one's body so

large when you need it to be small? Is the flimsy metal with which American automobiles are made strong enough to stop a round from a Kalashnikov assault rifle? Sitting in this position, aren't my spine or some vital organ the most likely things to be hit? What am I doing here?"

The shooting seem to abate as we accelerated, so I peeped out the rear window, only to see an Ali Baba-like character stumble down a hillside about 40 yards away, his assault rifle blazing.

Ducking again, further bursts were heard, the rebels firing long after we were out of range, with perhaps 500 bullets unleashed during the interminable 45-second mêlée. One round passed through the rear window of the car in front, exiting through the windscreen and narrowly missing the crouched heads of the driver and two back seat occupants, Patrick Cockburn of *The Independent news-*

paper and the UN HCRs, who were both slightly wounded by flying glass.

But the rebels sensed the thrill of the hunt, and thought they had a chance to bag some Baathists. Three gunmen jumped into a Volkswagen Passat and chased us.

They shot out the tyre of one of the cars and descended on the disabled vehicle, which bore Abdul Razaq Jassani, the UNDP's representative in Baghdad, and Staffan Bodemar, a Swede representing the UNHCR. The pair jumped out and approached their would-be killers, who were immediately contrite when they realised the convoy was not a government group.

"They were very friendly," said a jubilant Mr Jassani, who soon after arrived by taxi at a military checkpoint where the aid delegation waited, incredulous that we had somehow all emerged unscathed. "They kissed me and said 'I'm sorry we're not after you'."

Archer launches refugee appeal

An appeal masterminded by Jeffrey Archer, the author, and supported by John Major, the prime minister, and Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, aims to raise £10 million within four weeks for the Kurdish refugees (Alice Thomson writes).

The Simple Truth campaign is asking everyone to donate £5 towards helping the plight of the refugees and the government announced yesterday that it would double the target by giving £10 million to get the appeal launched.

The campaign has been put together in less than a week with the support of the BBC, the promoter Harvey Goldsmith and the British Red Cross making it the fastest and largest charity launched.

Donations of £5 should be sent to the Red Cross Simple Truth Appeal, Freeport, London, SW1 7YU, or deposited at any bank or post office.

Checkland plea

Michael Checkland, the director-general of the BBC, has appealed to the Iraqi government for information on three British journalists who have been missing since March 23. Nicholas and Rosanna Della Casa and Charles Maxwell were under contract to the BBC at the time.

Turkish denial

Incirlik — Turkish foreign ministry officials in Diyarbakir described as an "invention" a press report that his government was trying to harass the military and relief operation working from the newly established American base at Silopi near the Iraqi border.

Ordered out

Athens — Greece plans to expel 200 Palestinians after a 25lb bomb exploded in the port city of Patras, killing seven people including the Palestinian student carrying the device, sources at the public order ministry said. Four Palestinian men and a Greek woman have been arrested. (Reuters)

Iraq look to l pa

THE autonomy now under final is the Kurdish mount result of the extreme positions in which Baathist government and the Kurds find themselves. Both sides hope to give them enough to rebuild their state without another war. The hope that the regime of Saddam Hussein will collapse before the such a conflict would

above all, the shows to what the former lord of "the oil barrel" has been in his recent support of the uprisings in the Kurdish cities. He has lost all the military power at the end of Kuwait. He the self-appointed of the Arabs now has American permits to his ministry culture wants to spread his helicopter know-how by war of attrition we state by thousands guerrillas in the sea

For Kurdish is most immediate of the possibility of their historic title settlement after the of their population the borders of Iraq. If the camps prepared for the million Kurdish is came permanent, Baathist regime any length of time,

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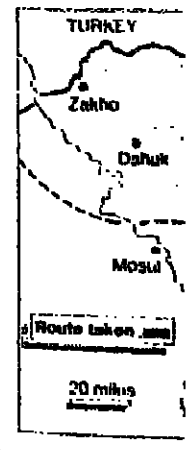
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COMMENTARY

Iraqi regime looks ready to let Kurd pact stick

By HAZEL TEBMOURIAN

THE autonomy agreement now under final scrutiny in the Kurdish mountains is the result of the extremely weak positions in which the Baathist government in Baghdad and the Kurds find themselves. Both sides hope it will be a temporary arrangement, to give them enough time to rebuild their strengths for another war. The Kurds also hope that the regime of President Saddam Hussein will collapse before the time for such a conflict would arrive.

Above all, the agreement shows to what low level the former lord of "the mother of all battles" has been reduced. In his recent suppression of the uprisings in the Shia and Kurdish cities, he was able to live off the military fat he still possessed at the end of the war over Kuwait. Nevertheless, the self-appointed champion of the Arabs now has to ask for American permission every time his ministry of agriculture wants to fly a crop-spraying helicopter, and he knows he must avoid a costly war of attrition waged on his state by thousands of Kurdish guerrillas in the north.

For Kurdish leaders, the most immediate concern was the possibility of the loss of their historic cities to Arab settlement after the mass flight of their populations towards the borders of Iran and Turkey. If the camps now being prepared for the estimated two million Kurdish refugees became permanent, and if the Baathist regime survived for any length of time, the Kurd-

ish cities would have been settled with Sunni Arabs. The Kurds in Iraq would lose the most important cultural centres of their people, and their presence of some 4,000 years there might come to an end. A temporary truce with Baghdad that allowed considerable numbers of the Kurds to return to the cities was, therefore, of the utmost importance to Kurdish survival.

It remains to be seen whether the former city dwellers will return to their homes. They would only do so if, in the projected autonomous region, scouts reassured them that Iraqi security forces had left for the Arab interior of Iraq, and if they could be confident that the former forces of repression were not to make a quick comeback.

A truce with his principal victims is attractive to Saddam for reasons other than avoiding a war of attrition with them. It can be used to support his pleading to the Western allies to relax the United Nations' trade sanctions against his government.

Under the present circumstances, then, the likelihood must be that Saddam will not renege on an agreement with the Kurds, unlike in 1970 when he had money and the military support of the Soviet Union. Otherwise, great numbers of Kurds might choose to remain in refugee camps, and Kurdish leaders might decide to resume their guerrilla war on Baghdad, with the almost certain consequence of the collapse of Baathism.



Passing glory: an Iraqi boy cycling by a bullet-scarred portrait of President Saddam Hussein at a deserted Iraqi military camp in Zakho, near the border with Turkey

PEACE MISSION

Baker tries for last-minute concessions

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, returned to Israel yesterday in a last-ditch attempt to try to win concessions for his peace plan from Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister.

However, on the eve of his talks, the chances of a breakthrough in the American initiative appeared slim, primarily because of Israeli and Syrian disagreements over who should participate in the proposed talks and what they should discuss.

Mr Baker, who arrived after an unscheduled meeting in the Soviet Union with Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister, will meet David Levy, the Israeli foreign minister, Mr Shamir and Moshe Arens, the defence minister this morning. He is due to return to Washington this weekend where he will brief President Bush on the outcome of his shuttle diplomacy in the region.

However, Israeli officials suggested yesterday that Mr Baker was unlikely to return with any big concessions from the right-wing leadership in Israel, which is expected to continue to reject United Na-

tions participation in the proposed peace talks and to object to Palestinian representatives from east Jerusalem taking part in any negotiations.

"Anyone who expected a quick result from the US initiative will be disappointed," a senior Israeli source said yesterday. "It does not mean that the initiative is over, just that this process can take a long time and we are at a particularly difficult stage at the moment. If the Americans are sincere in their search for peace, it is too early for them to give up now."

What has particularly infuriated the American side has been the Likud-led coalition government's inflexibility over the occupied territories, which Mr Shamir has said he will not give up and where new settlements have continued to be established during Mr Baker's visit.

Mr Baker has also run into problems with Syria, which has made it clear that it will enter negotiations only if Israel first agrees to hand back the Golan Heights, which it captured during the 1967 six-day war and subsequently annexed.

Rebels miss their chance

Edward Gorman reports from Semdinli, in southeastern Turkey, on the last leg of his travels with the Kurds

RESISTANCE commanders in northern Iraq have learnt the value of Western news organisations in their battle to win the support of Europe and the United States against President Saddam Hussein, but once interviews and a tour of the front line near Shaqlawa had been completed, they seemed keen to get reporters out.

Despite the shortage of fuel, a land cruiser was made available and two guerrillas, armed with AK47 assault rifles, acted as our escorts from peshmerga-controlled Diana to the Turkish frontier.

Driving through the open country northwards, gradually climbing into the hills, we passed the rubble of Kurdish villages, among 4,500 destroyed by the Baathist regime since 1975. Baghdad's scorched earth policy has depopulated huge areas, making it impossible for the guerrillas to defend large tracts of open countryside.

Further up, we passed a small encampment where a group of men stood around a fire. Six heavy-calibre artillery pieces abandoned by retreating government forces stood idle, rapidly becoming unusable for want of maintenance, outside the mud and timber buildings.

This is a common sight in rebel-held areas where anti-aircraft guns, lorries, tanks and artillery and communications equipment have been left behind. The peshmergas, many of whom have had military training, seem unable or unwilling to capitalise. It is a short-

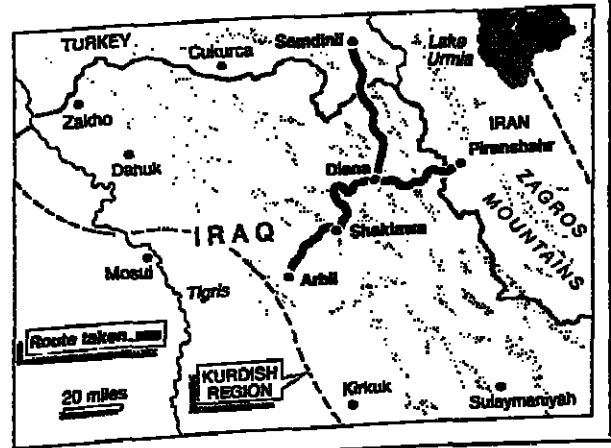
sighted policy which is reflected, too, in their destruction of captured army positions which might better be converted as points of defence.

Nearer the frontier we came across occasional groups of refugees living in abandoned buildings or camping out in makeshift tents. These people, beyond the reach of international aid organisations, had decided to move away from the cities but were not going to chance their luck in Turkey or Iran.

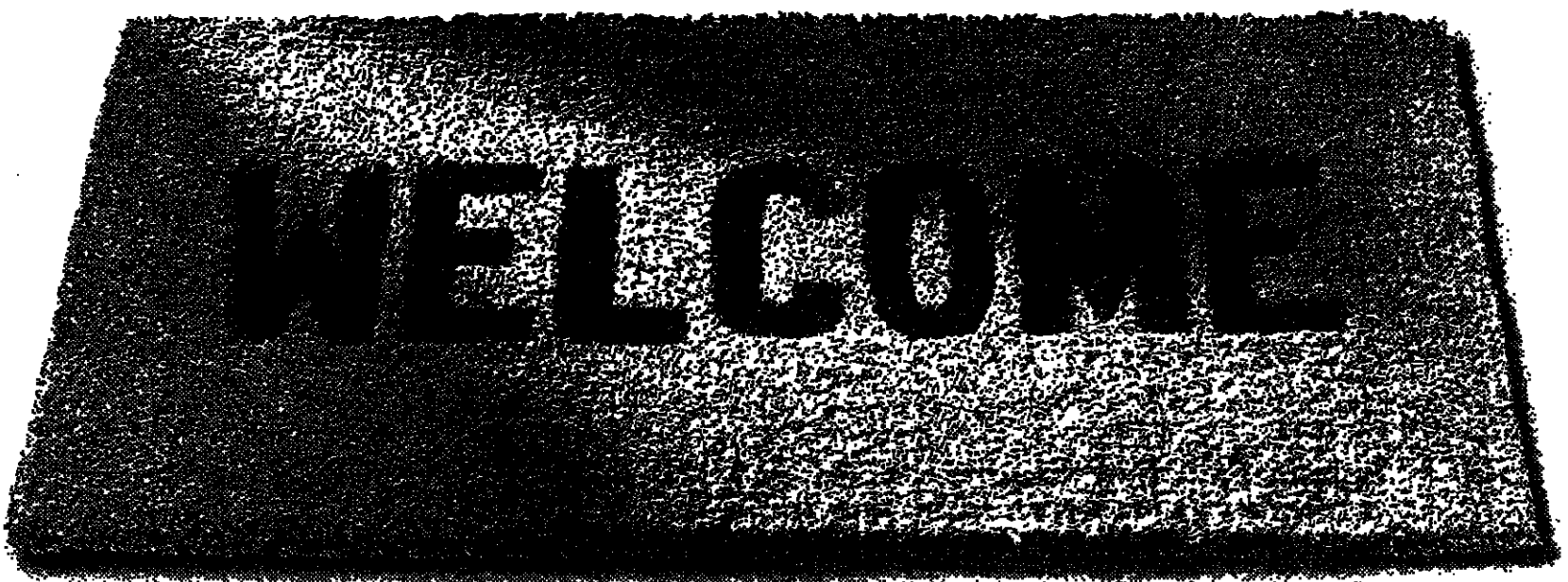
A narrow river gorge, preceded by a minefield laid during the Iran-Iraq war, brought us to the frontier, marked by a white concrete pillar. Immediately below, a Kurdish village alive with the sounds of cockerels, cows and playing children was a reminder of what life in a free Kurdistan could be like.

We then began the long journey to Semdinli. After passing through a Turkish army checkpoint, we passed a refugee camp accommodating thousands. American soldiers were helping the Turks to organise fresh water facilities. The wigan-style tents and the smoke of hundreds of fires blowing across the valley made it look like an Indian encampment, Hollywood style.

A young boy from Arbil, who had won possession of four pairs of wellingtons made in France, said there was not enough food. The Americans said they had had to break up a fight when food was being distributed from a lorry.



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Resignation threat becomes riskier ploy for Gorbachev

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE dramatic offer by President Gorbachev to resign yesterday was almost an exact rerun of a scenario that has been played out before: he warns Communist hardliners that they are deeply unpopular with the electorate, and then threatens to abandon the party to its fate and rely on an alternative power base as head of a democratic state.

But as analysts were pointing out yesterday, there are many reasons why the tactic is riskier now than before. He first used it at the end of 1989 and early last year, when he offered to step down during at least two successive meetings of the Communist central committee.

At the start of the current

central committee plenum, he issued a warning to orthodox Communists that might have been taken verbatim from his speeches of 16 months ago, when he was successfully cajoling a demoralised party, horrified by the fate of its comrades in Eastern Europe, into abandoning its formal monopoly on power.

"In all responsibility, let me tell you: anybody who in one way or another rejects reform and adopts a reactionary position is threatened with a definitive alienation from the masses, whose trust in the party has already weakened," he told the 400-strong committee.

Shortly before, he had waved in their faces his agree-

ment with the chiefs of nine Soviet republics on co-operation to end the rash of strikes and rescue the economy.

A little-noticed provision in the deal promised "elections to the organs of Soviet power" as soon as the constitution had been amended, so as to take account of the long-awaited federal treaty, remaking the country as a loose association of territories. That could mean either presidential or legislative elections, depending on what "organs of power" the new federation envisaged.

A senior activist in the Democratic Russia movement said yesterday: "It has been kept deliberately vague in order to allow room for manoeuvre, and no details will be clear until after the union treaty is concluded."

The reference to new elections to the federal organs, however, could be meant both to frighten unpopular Communists and disarm organisers of political strikes.

The biggest problem for Mr Gorbachev in reusing the old trick is that while the hardline Communists are still very unpopular, he is, too: so unpopular that it is hard to imagine him winning elections by universal suffrage.

He was elected to the new post of executive president last March by the supreme legislature, on the understanding that all future elections to the post would be by nationwide ballot.

While opinion polls point to an alarming disillusionment with all politicians, recent surveys by Moscow's leading polling agency, Data, suggest that Mr Gorbachev is supported by no more than 16 per cent of the electorate. His rival, Boris Yeltsin, still has the approval of at least half the voters in the Russian Federation, of which he is president.

A nationwide poll in mid-March asked 3,000 respondents which politician had pleased them most in the last few months. Mr Yeltsin won 26 per cent, while Mr Gorbachev trailed at 7 per cent. Significantly, 10 per cent said firmly that no politician had satisfied, and another 30 per cent were uncertain.

Leading article, page 23

Bonn treaties help Moscow

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

AS PART of an intensive German effort to help President Gorbachev, the Bundestag yesterday unanimously ratified wide-ranging good neighbour and economic treaties with the Soviet Union. The German government, desperately worried about the consequences if the Soviet leader falls, is doing all it can to bolster his position.

The treaties represent the closest ties that the Soviet Union has with any Western country, and the DM15 billion (£5 billion) of aid involved is the most tangible success so far of President Gorbachev's international diplomacy.

Bonn is doing its best to make sure that he is given the credit for this, hoping that boosting the president's international achievements will shore him up until his reforms work.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, told the Bundestag yesterday of "the importance President Gorbachev's policies have for developments in Europe and the world".

During a television interview on Wednesday evening, Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, praised the president's cour-

age. "I still have more confidence in him than in all those being named now as his successors," he said. "I am not writing him off. I may be wrong, but I hope I am not."

Both men have carefully cultivated good personal relations with the president. This paid off in winning approval to unification and the withdrawal of all 370,000 Soviet troops from eastern Germany by 1994. If Mr Gorbachev is toppled, however, Germany will feel threatened.

With a new, hard-line communist regime, the presence of so many troops inside Germany would endanger sovereignty. If anarchy reigns, there could be a domino effect reaching eastern Germany, where there is already widespread discontent.

Herr Kohl and Herr Genscher have promised the president to work for co-operation agreements between the Soviet Union, the EC and other international institutions. Herr Genscher will also ask the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe when it meets in Berlin in June to anchor the Soviet Union more firmly inside the European process.



Well of worries: a villager drawing water in Operechichi, inside the Chernobyl exclusion zone. Like others, she will not leave her land

Disease stalks the children of Chernobyl

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

FOR both the public and politicians, the Chernobyl accident was a threshold separating "truth from lies" and heralding new values in the Soviet Union. Five years to the day after the world's worst civil nuclear disaster another threshold may soon be crossed. From the end of this year, leukaemia rates among 380,000 children, some of whom are only now being evacuated from contaminated land, are expected to rise sharply.

Svetlana Yakushev, senior consultant at children's

hospital No. 1 in Kiev, said: "There have been more leukaemia cases already and a large increase in numbers is predicted for next year."

There are two groups most at risk: the 90,000 children who live on contaminated land in and around Chernobyl's 18-mile exclusion zone, and the 12,000 living near the reactor itself and receiving radiation doses of up to 200 rad. Scientists estimate that 150 rad absorbed by a healthy adult may induce cancer.

Such fears were also voiced by Vladimir Shovkoshyn, a Ukrainian expert on Chernobyl. He said yesterday that 7,000 people had died from radiation exposure in the past five years and accused Moscow of a cover-up.

Research is still being hampered by a lack of information. "Sometimes, children are born without hands or properly formed stomachs, or with deformed mouths or heart trouble," Dr Yakushev said. "Of course, we had those cases

before but there are more of them now. There is also a rise in premature births. We think there is a link with Chernobyl but we can't be sure because nobody has financed research."

Yevgenia Stepanov, a senior paediatrician at the All-Union Centre for Radiation Medicine, said: "We believe that children's resistance to illness has decreased. Their immune systems have been damaged, leaving a very complex range of problems. What we are witnessing is a rise in general diseases." She

added: "The frequency of lung, stomach and nervous system illnesses has increased sharply."

Igor Pashinsky, aged five, was brought by his mother Raisa to the centre with kidney inflammation and constant headaches. Although they lived in Zitomir, well away from the exclusion zone, parts of the region were affected by fallout. "We have heard about the expected leukaemia rises," Mrs. Pashinsky said. "But I must trust in the future."

Troops occupy Lithuania buildings

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN VILNIUS

HUNDREDS of Soviet soldiers occupied ten buildings in Lithuania early yesterday. Most of them belonged to the Soviet military training organisation Dossav, now taken over by the Lithuanian state and renamed Vyta. No one was hurt in the occupations.

There has been no explanation as yet from the Soviet government or local command. Andrius Zubalis, the Lithuanian parliamentary spokesman, yesterday said: "We are getting the impression that Soviet leadership has either lost control over the military units deployed in Lithuania, or is lying when in contact with the Lithuanian leadership."

Mr Zubalis said that on Wednesday, Vitaly Duguzhiyev, the Soviet deputy prime minister, had told President Landsbergis of Lithuania that "there can be no talk of the use of force".

The Soviet Communist parties in the Baltic republics, the most headline in the Soviet Union, were implicitly criticised by President Gorbachev in his first speech to the central committee plenum in Moscow this week. They are bitterly opposed to Baltic independence, and have close

links to the local Soviet military. There has long been speculation that these forces may be making their own strategy.

This is the first time that Soviet troops have carried out occupations outside the main Lithuanian cities of Vilnius and Kaunas. However, the move follows a previous pattern of securing what, according to the Kremlin's interpretation, is Soviet property. Buildings owned by Dossav in Vilnius were occupied last year and others were seized in January.

Most of the buildings are in areas with large Lithuanian majorities. They include technical schools in the port city of Klaipeda and four other towns, an aviation factory, an hotel, a flying club and a gliding club. According to the Lithuanian government, the aviation factory in Prienai is purely Lithuanian property. The republic's government

says that the troops have confiscated technical equipment, building materials, inventories and cars.

Following the incident on Wednesday, in which Soviet "Black-Bear" commandos placed an armed guard on a bank in New Vilnius, Lithuanians fear a new wave of Soviet military action in the republic.

In a separate incident yesterday afternoon, a Soviet soldier was shot dead inside the radio and television centre in Vilnius, occupied by the army since January. The Soviet command in the city said that he was killed accidentally by another soldier who was cleaning his gun.

However, a source in the Lithuanian Red Cross said that a second soldier was wounded, and that there appeared to have been some kind of a fight among the soldiers inside the building.

Hungary privatises vineyards

Budapest - Hungary will start to privatise its state vineyards this year to try to spur exports and improve the quality of its grapes. Officials of the State Property Agency hope private investors can help to revive Hungary's wine-growing tradition after decades of communist management that emphasised quantity over quality.

Peter Rajcsanyi, who heads the programme, said the sell-off aims to broaden Hungary's access to world markets, bring in strategic partners who can help to improve local wines, boost foreign investment, and help smooth strained relations between grape growers and wine producers.

The agency plans to seek advisers to help it privatise six big wine producers. In a second stage, private investors would bid for nine state farms that specialise in wine and fruit juices. (Reuters)

Banger and mash
Lyon - A French housewife found a grenade from the second world war in a bag of potatoes she was about to cook. The potato-shaped British grenade had probably been scooped up by a picking machine, a police spokesman said. Experts were called in to defuse the device. (Reuters)

Haig attack trial
Stuttgart - The trial of a Red Army Faction member, who is charged with the murder of a German banker and aiding an attack on General Alexander Haig, has opened here. Susanne Albrecht, aged 40, eluded the authorities for more than a decade by hiding in East Germany as a housewife. (AP)

Walesa ticks off creditors

By MICHAEL BRYNOR, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

PRESIDENT Walesa yesterday chided Britain for its reluctance to write off more of Poland's debt and said Poland could not effect real political and economic change while grappling under such a heavy burden of debt.

He said after talks with Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, that British banks would get back their money if Britain were more ready to invest in Poland. And in reply to the strong doubts expressed by Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman of Lloyds Bank, on the wisdom of forgiving debts, he accused Western banks of helping the former communist

government finance the apparatus of repression.

On the third day of his state visit, Mr Walesa again gave a warning that Western indifference to Poland's economic needs could lead to disastrous consequences. He told a conference of young politicians from East and West European countries and North America: "Poverty in one region and opulence in others will force even to migrate. We must even out our difference levels. We must not replace the Iron Curtain with a silver one."

In Warsaw, his talks with British bankers were viewed as one of the key encounters of his visit because Poland's

economic future is looking increasingly precarious. Western bankers are proving to be reluctant to follow the example of creditor governments and write off a large chunk of Polish debt.

Poland owes \$10 billion in principal to commercial banks and a further \$1.1 billion in interest arrears. The Paris Club, which groups all the major government creditors, has agreed to write off 50 per cent of Poland's \$33 billion debt to national treasuries.

Not all the creditor countries are happy. Japan, for one, is wary of fresh lending at a time when debts are being forgiven.

Doormen exit for the picket lines

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

MORE than most other towns, insulation is the key to a comfortable existence in Manhattan. Not the thermal kind, but the human. For the affluent and much of the middle class, life in the cacophonous and violent Big Apple is made bearable by a layer of doormen and other staff who perform services rarely found elsewhere in these egalitarian times.

As anyone knows from the cinema, New York doormen screen visitors, hail taxis at the press of a resident's buzzer, deliver mail, catch burglars, run lifts and serve as savants and comedians. So it is easy to gauge the scope of the emergency that befell about one million New Yorkers this week when all 30,000 members of the doormen and building staff union went on strike.

From the Victorian blocks of the Upper West Side to the mews of Greenwich Village, doormen and staff have exchanged their uniforms for sandwich-boards in support of a pay

you meet a better class of rot since the strike



claim. The result is a little surreal as residents have been forced to run a gauntlet of pickets outside their flats and organise watches to take out the rubbish and run services. While the pickets have sat in the sun with portable stereos blasting out salsa music, neighbours who have never previously exchanged more than a "hi" have been struggling to learn the secrets of rubbish compactors.

As in the blitz, the strike has produced heroes and shirkers. At the Dakota, the Victorian pile on Central Park West, for example, Lauren Bacall and Robert Flack were among residents who failed to sign up for duty, while on Park Avenue, Bianca Jagger has been hefting rubbish bags out to the street and at his apartment block in the Village, Edward Koch, the former mayor, has been wearing the doorman's cap. For the most part, the pickets have remained deferential but firm, barring entry among other things to the boys who deliver the groceries and ready-cooked dinners, vital to survival.

Sometimes, a little malice is evident. In the Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue, home to Andrew Lloyd Webber, Steven Spielberg and Mr Trump, the strikers have been reported giggling at the spectacle of residents making do for themselves. A whiff of blackmail has also appeared. Julio Valor, a concierge, pointed out: "I see the divorcees, the affairs, you name it... I've got to be worth more than they are paying."



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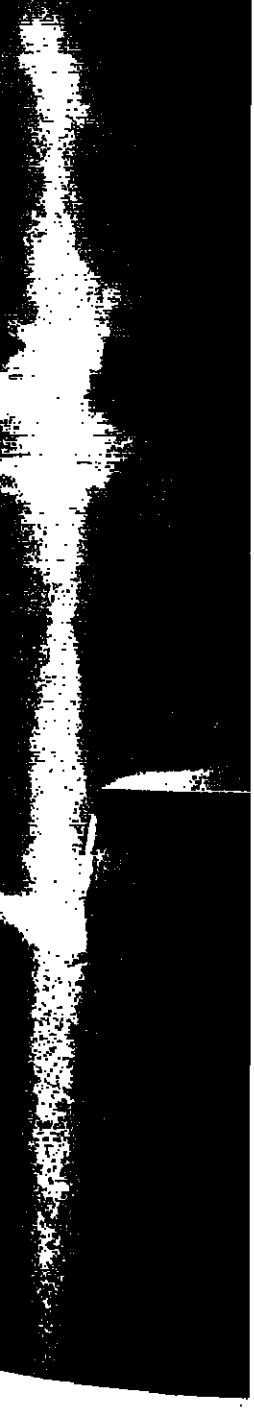
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Yugoslav president predicts bloody abyss

By DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Jovic of Yugoslavia yesterday painted a grim picture of the country's present and predicted collapse and of bloody conflict unless the six republics find a rapid solution to their political and economic problems.

Addressing the federal parliament probably for the last time before his one-year term expires, Dr Jovic, who represents Serbian hardliners, said that the country was heading for a "bloody abyss", as law and order were breaking down, and central government was being blocked by republics seeking more independence. Dr Jovic said the prospect of ethnic violence and social unrest was real and, according to some analysts, could not be avoided.

Talks about Yugoslavia's political future as an association of sovereign states, or a federation, which is what Serbia wants, have moved from the federal presidency to the leaders of the republics, who have been meeting once a week, but have failed to make any headway.

Serbia and Montenegro insist on a federation with central institutions, defence and foreign affairs policies, and monetary systems, while Slovenia and Croatia want an association of sovereign states with their own armies, foreign policy and currencies. The failure to break the deadlock prompted an agreement to hold a nationwide referendum, but this is now in question because the Serbians, who proposed it, have changed their minds.

While the republics cannot agree with one another, the federal government of Ante Markovic, the prime minister, which has a reform programme aimed at halting economic collapse and a slide into civil war, is being opposed by the republics whose agreement

it must ensure to carry out changes.

Mr Markovic, whose hand has been strengthened by Western support for his economic policy, has been under pressure to resign, but it is unlikely that even his most bitter critics would precipitate his resignation and leave Yugoslavia without a government that could negotiate with key Western institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund.

Last week, Mr Markovic asked the republics to back his economic programme, which included a 30 per cent devaluation and tight monetary controls. He said that it was the only way to hold the Yugoslav economy together and ensure Western loans, estimated at \$5 billion (£2.9 billion).



Big boys don't cry: two babies, in the arms of some wrestlers, facing one another in a competition to find the strongest pair of young lugs at the Sensoji Buddhist temple in Tokyo yesterday. Sixty children born last year took part in the contest, held when prayers are said for the health of babies

Opposition kicks hard for Rocard's red card

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

POLITICS made way for football on the French front pages yesterday, but although parliament suspended business to watch Olympique Marseille get to the final of the European Cup, the hard-pressed Socialist government was soon under renewed attack.

Opposition leaders have stepped up demands for President Mitterrand to dismiss Michel Rocard and call elections after the prime minister, for the third time recently, withdrew a key piece of legislation because he feared that it would be defeated.

A bill to reform the hospital service will test the minority Socialist government's strength next week. The bill is opposed by two mainstream conservative factions and the Communists, who generally support M Rocard, and its rejection could force the Socialists to face their 12th vote of confidence since coming to power in 1988. If it comes to that and if M Rocard goes under, his fate would lie in the hands of the president.

M Mitterrand has urged the government to be "clear, firm and vigorous", neglecting to suggest what it might do in the face of its present troubles. Opinion polls show there is concern about the handling of a scandal involving Socialist party campaign finances. The apparent impotence of the government to sustain its legislative agenda has sharpened opposition complaints that the country is moving into dangerous constitutional waters. M Rocard insists that questions of resignation or the dissolution of parliament were not raised when M Mitterrand held the regular weekly ministers' meeting.

Smoking 'biggest cause of Western early death'

By NICHOLAS WATT

SMOKING is the biggest cause of premature death in the developed world and a third of the world's population have little or no access to drugs, according to the World Health Organisation.

The organisation says its findings dispel the myth that deaths linked to smoking occur only in the very old. Almost 800,000 people die every year in the developed world from illnesses related to smoking. The organisation blames the poor distribution of drugs on "sheer unavailability" and overpricing. This has meant that, while more than two-thirds of people live in the Third

World, they account for less than a third of the drugs market.

The WHO 1990 *World Health Statistical Annual* says, however, that in less than 20 years the number of one-year-old children who have been given a third dose of polio or DPT - diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) and tetanus - vaccine has almost reached the two-thirds mark. The programme has taught 500,000 health workers and the organisation estimates that about 2.2 million deaths a year are being prevented.

Malaria is one of the most serious and widely spread tropical diseases, and more than 40 per cent of the world's

population are still exposed to the disease. Of these, 32 per cent live in regions where it is re-emerging after it had been eliminated or reduced. Although the report concludes that there is no solution, as the parasites that carry malaria are developing resistance to the drugs, it is calling for urgent investment and more commitment at local and international levels.

Blindness in two-thirds of sufferers could be cured or could have been prevented. However, there seems little hope as more than 90 per cent of blind people live in the Third World. The organisation says cataracts cause up to two-thirds of all blindness.

MPs vote to avoid witness box duties

Madrid - A majority of the Congress of Deputies, the powerful lower house in Spain, voted to exempt themselves, Senate members, many political appointees, and military and religious leaders from testifying in person in court (Harry Debelius writes).

MPs opposing the measure, backed by the ruling Socialists and Catalan nationalists, said that, if it becomes law, the former interior minister, Jose Barrionuevo, would not be required to testify in person in June in the "GAL" case, in which police are suspected of organising the murders of members of Eta, the Basque separatist movement.

It would also restrict testimony in legal actions arising from the alleged free use of an office in a state building by Juan Guerra, brother of the former deputy prime minister, Alfonso Guerra, to conduct private business.

Pensioner held

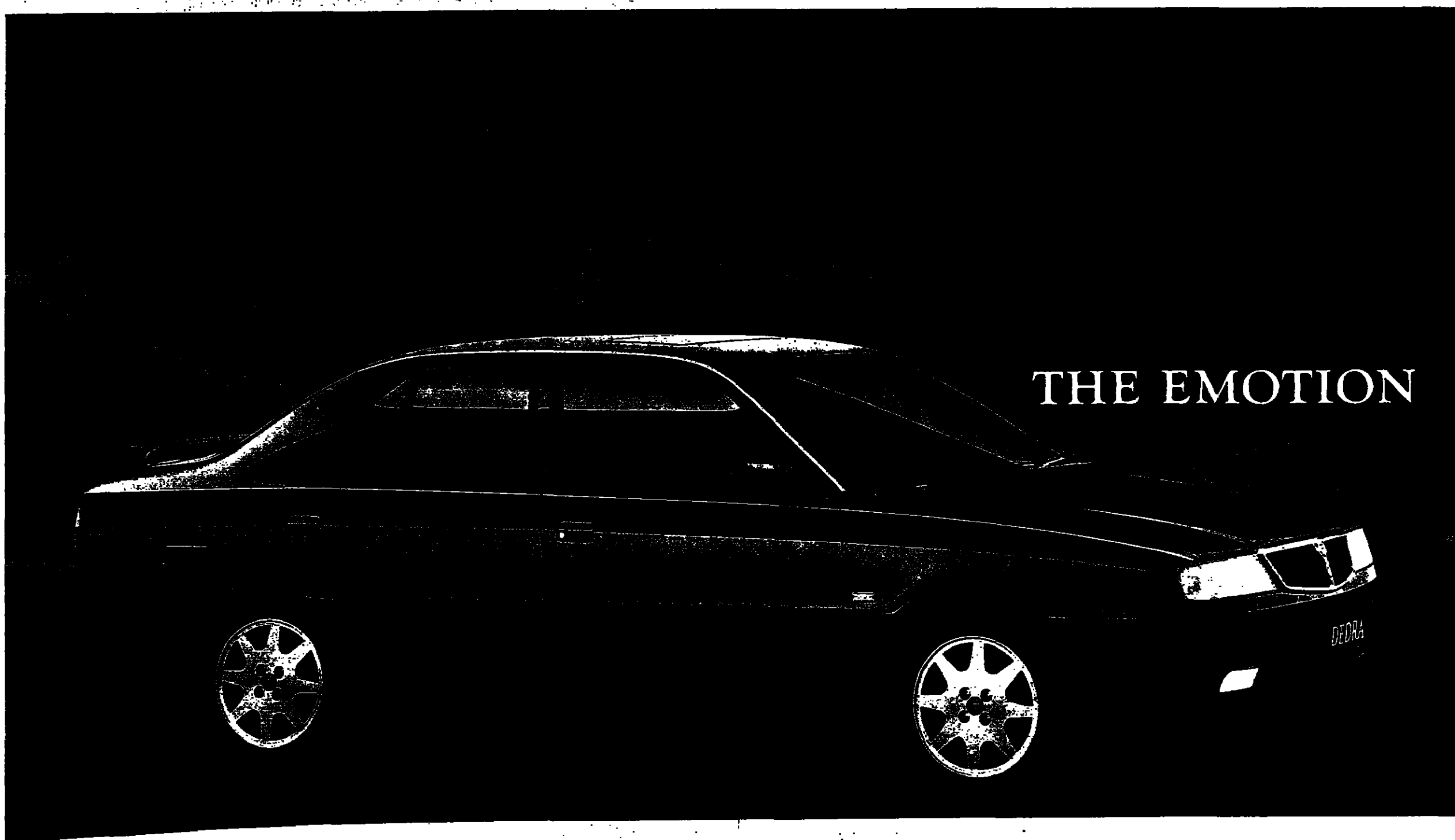
Karlsruhe - An east German pensioner has been charged with recruiting "Heinrich P", a Bonn defence ministry official who was exposed as a spy last week. The pensioner, aged 64, named only as Werner K., was arrested on suspicion of having worked as a Stasi agent. (Reuters)

Borg sees wife

Milan - Bjorn Borg, the former Wimbledon champion, visited his Italian wife, the pop singer Loredana Berté, aged 40, in hospital a day after she tried to commit suicide by swallowing sedatives. She had left a note "commending my soul to God". Her recovery should be complete, a doctor said. (Reuters)

Lion returns

Venice - The winged lion of St Mark, the symbol of Venice, which is thought to date from the fourth century BC, was returned to its column on the lagoon waterfront after restoration, which took five years. Venetians held a Mass in St Mark's basilica and a parade in Renaissance costume to celebrate. (Reuters)



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ANC chief threatens mass protests if Mandela is convicted

From Gavin Bell in Johannesburg

THE chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the African National Congress, has threatened mass protests if Winnie Mandela is convicted of kidnapping and assault by the Rand supreme court. Chris Hani yesterday also vowed that an ANC government would release her if she were imprisoned.

His controversial statements in Washington, where he was addressing a peace foundation, contradict the ANC's stated commitment to an independent judiciary in a post-apartheid era. Newspaper editorials yesterday castigated him for advocating "mobocracy", and called on the ANC leadership to affirm that his views are an aberration of its official policy.

It is not the first time that Mr Hani, a militant communist, has caused concern in government circles and the ranks of his own organization. Having established a formidable power base in the nominally independent Transkei, he is unquestionably a rising red

star in the ANC. He enjoys close relations with General Bantu Holomisa, the ruler of the Xhosa-speaking tribal homeland in Natal, and has assembled an entourage of influential proteges, most of whom are fellow members of the South African Communist Party. They include Pat Holomisa, a relative of the general, who is president of the congress of traditional leaders which garners support for the ANC among hereditary (tribal) rulers.

Mr Hani's popularity in the territory has been increased by statements that the ANC should be prepared to seize power if negotiations with Pretoria broke down. Government sources have alleged that Umkhonto fighters are storing arms in private houses and remote areas in Transkei, but General Holomisa has dismissed the reports as propaganda. Mr Hani, aged 48, is said to be a scholar of Latin classics and Marxist literature. He joined the ANC youth league in 1957, and rose steadily through the ranks of

Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) to become its political commissar and deputy commander in 1982. Five years later, he became chief of staff in succession to Joe Slovo, the leader of the Communist party.

His ascendancy impinges directly on the reform process in South Africa, because he is a strong contender for high office at an ANC national congress scheduled for June. In Washington, he said that his Marxist convictions had not been affected by events in Eastern Europe.

● CAPE TOWN: The South African government announced yesterday that all-white teacher and technical colleges will be opened to all races next month.

Piet Claes, the minister of white education and culture, said that the move also included reform schools and colleges which teach special education and child care. On Tuesday, Pretoria said it would submit legislation to parliament ending racial quotas at universities. (AP)



Royal touch: the Princess of Wales holding a girl with the Aids virus at a hostel for deprived children in Fehin, near São Paulo, during the Brazilian royal visit yesterday

China steps up Tibet security for anniversary

By David Watts, Diplomatic Correspondent

THE Chinese authorities have arrested 44 alleged criminals in a new crackdown in Tibet before the 40th anniversary of its forcible assimilation into China next month. Thirty of the accused are reported to be guilty of theft and causing injury and will be tried. The other 14 will be sent for "re-education" through labour.

The arrests follow the detention of at least nine monks, since the beginning of last month, who are all accused of taking part in pro-independence demonstrations or of putting up posters.

The Chinese government is determined that the anniversary of what is called the peaceful liberation of Tibet will be celebrated in grand style on May 23. To make sure that those people with a different interpretation of the anniversary do not disrupt it, a massive propaganda campaign, backed by a large military build-up, has been under way for some time. Planes loaded with troops are said to have been arriving at Lhasa in recent weeks, and the Office of Tibet in London reports that an additional 100,000 troops are being positioned to suppress any demonstrations.

Early this month, representatives from 40 areas were called to Lhasa for instruction on how the anniversary is to be celebrated in "grandeur and style", and were ordered to maintain 24-hour vigilance against any possible demonstrations or the display of posters. The Tibet Office says 200 intelligence officers have been drafted in from Peking and Shanghai to monitor events.

For many Tibetans, the most disturbing sign of the preparations for the anniversary is the rebuilding of the old Barkhor district of Lhasa and the replacement of the unusual octagonal cobbled road around the Jokhang temple with a modern surface. A huge monument to the consolidation of communism is being erected and various economic projects are being linked to the celebrations, including the expansion of the airport and a new hydroelectric plant.

The Peking authorities appear to be determined that nothing will mar the occasion, although it is hard to imagine that any foreigners will be there to witness any embarrassment to a leadership equally nervous about the stability and allegiance of Hong Kong after its return to Chinese rule in 1997. No guest list has yet been revealed and there are few regimes, with the possible exception of North Korea, that are likely to want to be associated with the anni-

versary. Since the Chinese invaded Tibet in 1951, it is estimated that 1.2 million Tibetans have died or been killed as a result of Peking's policies. Many of the deaths were caused by economic famine after the Chinese changed Tibetan farming practices and forced farmers into communes. It is believed that 87,000 died in the years immediately after the invasion. Only 3 per cent of Tibetan Buddhist monasteries have escaped destruction.

Korean minister sacked

Seoul — President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea sacked his environment minister over a water pollution scandal that has triggered a national furor. A presidential spokesman said that Mr Roh replaced Huh Nam Hoon with Kwon E Hyock, a former health minister. The president also replaced the deputy environment minister.

Mr Huh's ministry has been criticised for failing to protect supplies of drinking water which have been repeatedly contaminated by toxic waste, discharged by an affiliate of one of South Korea's largest business conglomerates, the Daewoo Group. The chairman of the group, Park Yong Kon, resigned on Wednesday, because of the scandal.

Mr Park stepped down after an affiliated company was accused of contaminating, for a second time, the Nakdong river which supplies water to ten million people around Taegu, the third largest city in South Korea. (Reuters)

Student suicide

Hong Kong — A first-year Peking university student, Hsiao Pao, aged 18, undergoing political indoctrination at a military academy, died after shooting himself in the head. He had been rejected in love twice by high-school sweethearts. (Reuters)

Unity pledge

Manila — The Philippines' two senior generals, Lieutenant-General Lisandro Abadía, and the man who tried to discredit his promotion, Major-General Alexander Aguirre, pledged to end their public quarrel over military reforms. Their dispute had threatened to divide further her fractious army. (Reuters)

Delhi madam on the hustings

From Christopher Thomas in Delhi

INDIAN prostitutes will have a champion in next month's elections as Nimmi Bai runs for parliament. She has been in the trade for 25 years, and now oversees a brothel in a dingy room on G B Road in the old part of Delhi.

No prostitute has stood for election before. She will not win, because only people with money and connections make it to the Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament. She is, however, shedding light on something that India would prefer not to know about: illicit sex.

Prostitution, like homosexuality, is not officially admitted. As a result, there are no government policies nor facilities for prostitutes seeking to get out of the trade. The failure of the government to recognise the issue also explains why it refuses to launch a high-profile campaign against AIDS.

The issues arising in India's tenth general election barely touch on the myriad social ills that seem shocking to outsiders, but which are fatalistically accepted by most Indians. Nimmi Bai is an embarrassment, because she is highlighting one of them. Many women are kidnapped and forced into prostitution, and brothel-keepers may keep them high on drugs, and never pay them. "I not only represent the wishes of the prostitutes of G B Road, but of the entire country," Nimmi Bai said.

She has filed nomination papers for a Delhi constituency as an independent candidate. She wants the government to provide education for prostitutes' children. Of all

the tens of thousands of contenders who have filed their nominations across India, she is one of the few with specific proposals to help the deprived.

The scene outside the offices of the big political parties in Delhi says much about the political system. During the past month, would-be MPs have been camping on lawns and pavements, waiting to surge forward every time an important party official passes by.

The manifestos of the principal parties are a litany of excessive promises, but they contain few specifics. Congress (I), for example, says it will eliminate poverty. Most of the dominant issues in this campaign are a far cry from anything that Nimmi Bai cares about.

No party manifesto mentions the plight of bonded labourers, for example, hundreds of thousands of whom work as slaves on building sites. Nobody is pledging to eradicate child labour, which is regarded by all parties as unstoppable in such a poor country. While the population continues its march towards a billion, no party is advocating a concerted birth control programme, and the idea of women's rights has yet to take root.

The gap between rich and poor continues to grow, but no manifesto mentions it. While impoverished, illiterate peasants fight over religion and caste, the upper middle classes enjoy unprecedented prosperity, comparable with anywhere in the West. Nimmi Bai says: "It is always the common man who falls victim."

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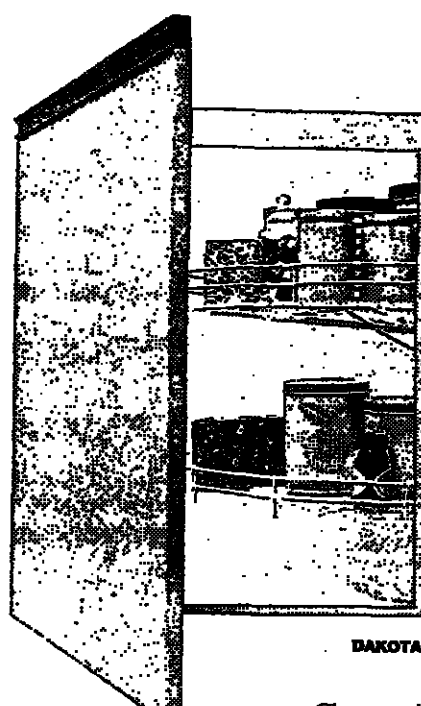
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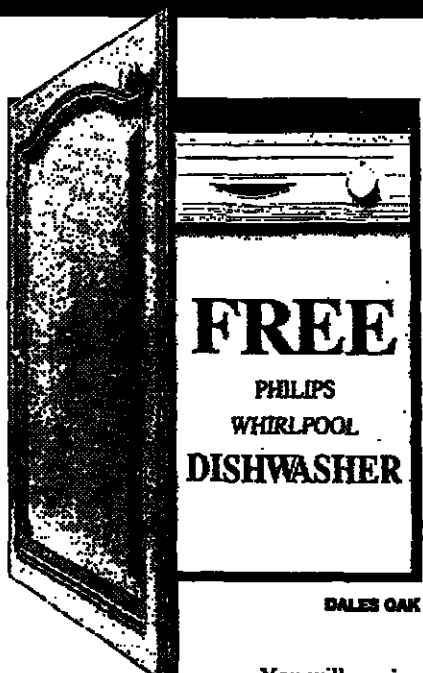
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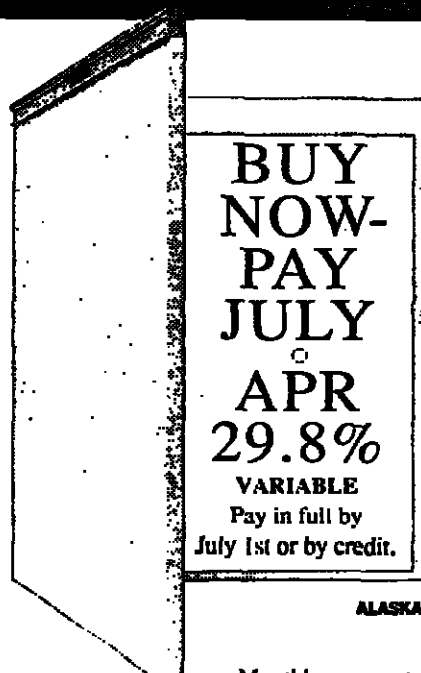
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Kate Muir reports on a family's campaign to clear its name of child neglect

Parents in a net of suspicion

THE McGowans are being investigated by the state. They feel like terrorists, never told what they are accused of, or by whom. They are discussed in meetings, the existence of which is denied afterwards. Their personal lives become public property. Those who know them are questioned. They are the subject of thick files and growing suspicion.

After some months, the McGowans discover the nature of their crime: they have given birth to a son who is slightly underweight. This explains the regular appearances of an over-zealous health visitor, the questioning of their childminder on "routine" visits, and why their GP takes an extraordinary interest in the baby and keeps insisting that he is weighed.

The investigations continue even when Dr Marian McGowan, herself a community paediatrician, provides a carefully plotted chart showing her son William, although small, is growing normally, and that her four other healthy children are also below average height. She has the child examined by an independent paediatrician, who finds nothing amiss.

But by then it is too late. The bureaucracy is up and rolling. Forms are being filled in, comments noted, at least some are convinced the child is "failing to thrive". A social work case conference is held, but the parents are not allowed to attend, or comment. They fear their child may be put on the "at risk" register, or taken away.

This week, after nearly a year of investigation, harassment and stress, the McGowans were cleared.

"One is left at the end of it all worrying how many other families have had their children taken away, who wouldn't have the knowledge to put up the fight we did," Dr McGowan says.

Her husband Michael takes out a pile of files. There are letters to and from social work departments, doctors, paediatricians and health visitors on the case which never existed. "If it had been a single mother living in a council high rise,

she would not have stood a chance of keeping her child," says Mr McGowan, 41, a graduate and an insurance salesman. "Sometimes it was only my wife's specialised knowledge of procedures in child neglect cases that kept us from being completely overwhelmed."

Investigations into the McGowans started just after they moved last year to a big house in Islington, north London. In 1987, they had been visited by social workers at their previous home in the Barbican, in the City of London, after a hoax phone call had been made to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children alleging the McGowans were not feeding the children properly.

Social workers dismissed the claims as bogus within four days. But, the McGowans say, the NSPCC refused to erase the enquiry from its records. "So when we arrived in Islington, we were seen somehow as guilty because we had once been investigated," Mr McGowan says. The undue interest in William began six months after the McGowans moved to Islington, about the time their medical records would have arrived.

A visit to which the family in action at home might have suggested all the worries of the Islington social workers last year. But no social workers visited them to make a report. The case was based on the testimony of a paediatrician who saw William only from a distance and one health visitor who made it clear to Dr McGowan that she did not approve of working mothers who used childminders.

But the fact that Dr McGowan works seems to have had little adverse effect on her children, who are eating shepherd's pie and vegetables around the kitchen table. William, now two, is sitting on his 11-year-old sister's knee feeding himself. He moves on to creamed rice and



Cleared: Marian and Michael McGowan and their son William, who was the focus of social workers' attention

plums, some of which he puts on the front of his pyjamas. Another sister is roller skating around the kitchen, and a second informs everyone that her duck slippers are called "Donald One and Donald Two" and says she can read Roman numerals. They do not look an unhappy family; at intervals various children climb their parents for hugs.

The social workers never saw this, or noted that all the children are slight, like their parents. One suspicion led to another, and because the McGowans fought back, changed GPs, and brought in independent experts, they were some-

how suspected of covering things up. There were slightly derogatory remarks made about the fact that Mr McGowan, who often works from home, looked after the children a lot. "I also got the impression that people slightly disapproved of us being such a large family," says Dr McGowan, aged 39, who is Catholic and expecting another child in August. "Perhaps they

thought there were so many that we would forget to feed the youngest, but of course, he gets the most attention."

She was not worried only about her son, but her professional reputation. How could she have appeared to testify in other neglect cases, when she believed her own son might be put on the "at risk" register?

"I have never come across anything like this in terms of secrecy and subterfuge dealing with child neglect cases in the borough where I work."

The Butler-Sloss guidelines, written after the Cleveland enquiry, and a policy document called "Working Together" were ignored. The McGowans were never told the investigation was going on, until they found out. They were not allowed into the two case conferences on their child, and could not put their side of the argument. Their requests for a meeting with the neighbourhood social services department were ignored.

"If the health authority and social services had been completely open about the investigation in the first place, and asked to see William at home, and had visited the family, then they would have got to the truth a lot more quickly," Mr McGowan says.

'A single mother in a council high rise would not have stood a chance'

A commercial undertaking

Just when the bereaved are at their most vulnerable, the funeral business steps in

ONE advantage of a modern welfare state is that when you have your worst moments, those professionals who cross your path are free from the profit motive. If you wake up and cannot see, your child is run over or your house catches fire, then the doctor, ambulance man or fireman is not going to whip out a price list.

The exception — pinpointed this week after dogged investigation by the Labour MP Lawrence Cunliffe — is bereavement. When someone dies, the emergency and medical professions fade away as into the foreground steps the funeral director.

He, or she, is not a public servant on a salary. This is a business, and not a bad business either. Mr Cunliffe claimed in the Commons that some undertakers make 1,000 per cent on equipment. His figures are disputed by the trade, but it is beyond debate that hundreds of small family concerns have been bought out by big combines, and that this has intensified a commercial tone which does not sit well with the sensitivities of the newly bereaved.

The costs are not all that offhand. You do not have to go far for anecdotal evidence of undertakers' staff who are scruffy, brisk, and less than sympathetic. Services which some of us might not want are offered as a matter of course. "Hygienic treatment" is mentioned in hushed tones as being included in the set-menu price, but how many people know or dare speculate what the phrase means? What sounds like a

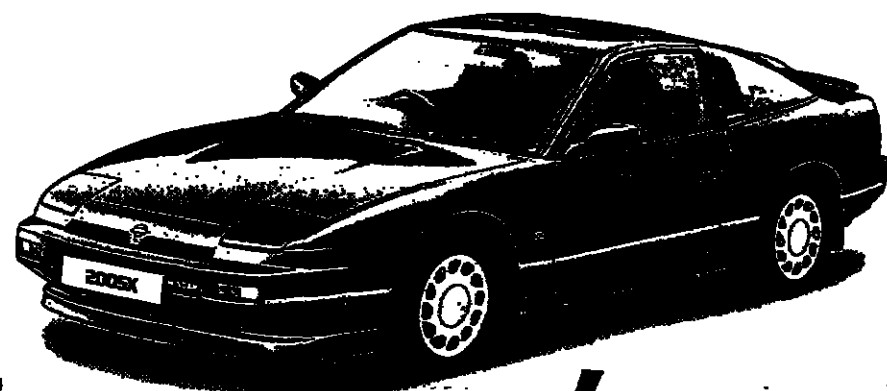
brief wipe with germicide actually involves the draining out of the blood and its replacement with a chemical preservative — "surface embalming", in fact. If you want the corpse untouched except for the minimum of laying-out, it is often necessary to say so very firmly.

As for the "chapel of rest" proudly included in the price, not everyone appreciates this kind of viewing. As one family put it, "the shock of finding your father coiffed and rouged and clad in a sky-blue dicky-fronted tuxedo is not something you easily forget". All they had said to their brisk, euphemistic undertaker was: "Er, yes, whatever's usual", imagining a white shroud.

To blame the trade is probably simplistic. If we kicked up more fuss it would undoubtedly respond, but we are unwilling to look at the product in advance: who wants to see themselves as future consumers of funeral services?

Maybe the way to get cheapness with taste is to die in a remote rural area, where small concerns remain close to the matter-of-fact traditions of a past age. I know the proprietor of one such who, at the burials of the friendless, says prayers himself over the grave. Nor will he offer any frills unless the client asks. "I don't touch the body any more than I need to, I never embalm, or do all that face-painting and hairdressing and I'm not a salesman of fancy shrouds. It's a vocation, see, not just a business."

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If it's here, it's art:
John Russell Taylor
reviews a German
exhibition full of
implausibilities



Joachimides was frank, or tactless, enough to give an interview shortly before the show opened, in which he observed that today the public was rudderless and disorientated when it came to art, with nobody having any real idea what was art and what was not. Art, he added, was these days defined as

National Geographic. In the catalogue it is firmly asserted that such work is "the fruit of an artistic mentality in unstable equilibrium, oscillating between animistic seriousness, thorough-going scepticism and artistic frivolity". Or in other words, if you are inspired to remark that the emperor is wearing no clothes, you will be promptly assured that your achieving this perception is the real point of

Some of it at least has a perceptible concept if minimal behind it, such as Maria Eichman's walls covered with a Victorian stencil pattern with the colouring ingeniously varied to suggest fading and defacement.

There are some quite good jokes (I think they are jokes) such as Haim Steinbach's assemblage of fake elephant-foot stools, and bad jokes like Yasumasa Morimura's photo-collages inserting Barbie-

If "Metropolis" is taken as a giant funfair, showing some of the best and a lot of the worst of art currently lying around, then its showmanship is unassailable. If it is to be used for divining the future of art, however, it would no doubt be more sensible to turn to the entrails of an ox.

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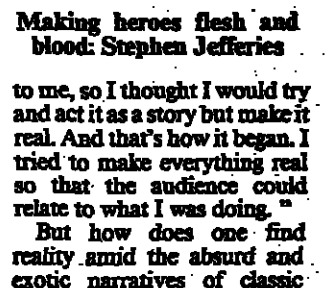
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Making heroes flesh and blood: Stephen Jeffries

to me, so I thought I would try and act it as a story but make it real. And that's how it began. I tried to make everything real so that the audience could relate to what I was doing."

But how does one find reality amid the absurd and exotic narratives of classic



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Henri Laurens. Altes Museum,

LEADEN WINGS. Since Anselm Kiefer was one of the great revelations of "Zeitgeist" in 1982, it is appropriate that his first German retrospective should coincide with

Status of Sculpture. Stiftung Starke, 30-32 Königssallee, Grunewald (825 7685). Tues to Sun, 12 to 6.30pm, until June 1.

ONE of England's more durable exports, Joe Jackson has nevertheless suffered a decline since his days as the New Wave eminence grise of spiv-rock. His last album, *Blaze of Glory*, sold respectably in



finds one. Led by the finest harmonica player Britain has ever produced, Mark Feltham and singer/guitarist Dennis Greaves, who I hope has abandoned for good his horrible power-pop combo called The Truth, they work wonders on a tasteful selection of shuffles and boogies. Newcomers

Bergerac, a man overwhelmed by the physical affliction of his huge nose. Yet the dancer is drawing on unexpected parallels in his own life: when he was two years old his mother fainted, dropping a pot of boiling water on him. He was in hospital for six months.

"The technical thing is becoming so common now; in fact it's becoming boring because everybody sees it

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Joe Jackson: upbeat and intelligent rock

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James Kelman, angry literary champion of Britain's poor, talks to Neroli Lawson about his work

Burning view of northern streets

If you are not sleeping rough tonight, read James Kelman. If you do not know what it is like to punch people gratuitously in pubs, or go out thieving and bungle it something rotten, the same applies. The author of *The Burn*, published on Monday, is striding towards an angry new realism in British fiction.

Every human day has its own small story of struggle. So too do Kelman's characters. His books — such as the novels *A Disaffection* (for which he was on the 1989 Booker shortlist) and *A Chancer*, or the short story collections *Not*, *while the sun and Greyhound for Breakfast* — are peopled by loners, connected at best to one or two others. Their bodies have been broken, eaten into, decayed by filth and poverty. You barely know their names, where they are or what they look like.

The stories are short and not much happens. A woman walks into a room. A man desires her. She walks out. The full-blown drama takes place in his head. But however extreme the situation, you identify with the hero. This is what makes Kelman remarkable, though what people usually pick out is the number of expletives on each page, and his unusual fictional landscape of the DHSS, the betting shop, the matinee, the park, the bedsitter.

James Kelman is softer and smaller than the angry Glaswegian I imagined. But his skin and yellowing fingers look harassed; he is worn by work and by nicotine which have left an industrial film over him. The eyes are faintly bloodshot, his wiry hair is shot through with grey streaks.

Drumchapel, a Glasgow housing estate, is where he grew up. His father was a frame-maker, his mother a teacher. On Saturdays the womenfolk struggled home from town carrying the week's shopping. At the junior library, Kelman read "cowboy stories with psychological insight by Louis Lamour". School was "irrelevant". So at 15 he left, in search of a "man's wage".

He moved through cities — Glasgow, London, Manchester — working in asbestos and copper factories, mostly with immigrants. "Part of your basic skills was to avoid serious injury every 30 minutes." There is no anger here. He is stating a fact. He played football "dinner time" with fellow workers. "I listened to the old guys telling stories — Ukrainians, Georgians, Poles, and a few Irish. The different cultures and prejudices have stuck with me."

He met a girl from South Wales who was living in a Catholic girls' hostel in London. They married; their two daughters are now twenty and twenty-one. Periodically Kelman would chuck in the job, using the wages to get back to Glasgow. "I enjoyed being unemployed as long as I had money for cigarettes and the occasional food. I never need something to occupy my time."

He went to the library and also



Author James Kelman: "The feeling was I was going to be doing it; I had become aware I was going to do it a year or two before. Then it was time to make a start. So I went out and bought a big notebook"

followed "ordinary pursuits like public swimming baths, gambling, football, the DHSS." His writing, he explains, was not observation. "It was my culture. These things are exciting parts of the culture of the majority of people in this country. In English literature it only exists as a sociological treatise." Here comes the anger. The unmonetised, Kelman feels, are given a raw deal in literature. They are "never whole human beings. It's a behaviourist perception of these people: you only see them moving, you are never told what they are thinking."

Kelman warms up his wrath, calling on "existentialism, phenomenology and psychology" to shore up a culture that is "pre-scribed or marginalised". The enemy is "the Anglo-American canon, imperialism, colonialism". I feel bludgeoned by these broadsides. The anger in his stories is by contrast, particular and human; it is accessible and it invigorates.

Was it hard to start writing? "No. The feeling was that I was going to be doing it. I had become aware I was going to do it a year or two before." Then "it was time to make

a start. So I went out and bought a big notebook." This quiet surrender to inevitability is a feature of his characters' lives too. He feels no automatic solidarity with other writers. "How long can you spend talking about Tipton?"

Back to Glasgow, and to work on the buses. Now, at Philip Hobsbawm's groups, he met writers who shared his concerns: Tom Leonard, Alastair Gray, Liz Lochhead. Down South, this cluster of names prompts talk of a Scottish renaissance. In fact Scotland and its literature have always been there.

Sometimes England chooses to ignore them.

I thought I was meeting a writer who, in post-Thatcher Britain, gives a voice to the voiceless. What I find instead is much more arresting. It is not about class or opportunity. It is a confirmation that, to the English, Scotland really is a foreign country. It has its own distinct philosophical and literary concerns. Kelman defines these as being "to do with the self-centredness of character and existential domination. There is no God voice whatsoever. You can see it back in James Hogg" (whose 19th-century work *Confessions of a Justified Sinner* serves as an apt summary for Kelman's oeuvre). It was Dostoevsky, Gogol, Balzac and Camus that Kelman was reading at libraries, "European writers [who] can loosely be grouped under the term 'existential tradition.'" The allegiances of Elizabethan times still hold true, then; Scotland looks not southwards to England but reaches out to France, Germany and Russia.

Then on to Huxley, Heidegger and Goethe. But this is no border-country Byron in billowing lawn shirt: Kelman claims his position is logical not Romantic. He writes non-fiction about "different things... an essay on Chomsky and the commonsense philosophical tradition in Scotland, okay?" The "okay?" means "now shut up". Kelman is certainly a thinker. So why the slight diffidence when he talks of these hard-hitting names? Is it a side-effect of the Glasgow brogue, or is he faintly nervous about appropriating them to himself?

Today, in his airy Glasgow tenement flat, the computer will be on all day. "If I'm not out the house then I'm working. I may work through the night." "Out the house", refers to "groups and things". His position is "decentralised, anarchist, anti-parliamentarian" and includes "friends in the black community, involved on the line".

His title, *The Burn*, has a number of meanings and he enjoys this ambiguity. To Kelman it is suggestive of gambling. "I can imagine Paul Newman or Robert Redford using it in *The Sting*", he says. Will he always have stories to tell? "My method is that you can't not have stories. I sit down and jump in. You just start characters moving." This production line has impressive results. Here, in his eleventh work, he is coming tougher and ever nearer his own true North. Kelman is teasing the form of the short story in most provocative ways. *The Burn* is hard going at first. But it is very worth it.

● *The Burn* by James Kelman is published by Secker & Warburg on Monday, April 29, price £13.99, simultaneously with the same author's *Hardie & Baird* and other plays, price £14.99 hardback, £5.99 paperback. Kelman is reading his work at Waterstone's bookshop, 121-125 Charing Cross Road, London, at 7.30pm tonight

BRIEFING

Plays' ground

WHILE other regional theatres struggle for survival, the Traverse in Edinburgh has secured its future. Agreements signed this week enable work to begin fitting out the company's new theatre, which will be in the basement of the £40 million Scottish Financial Centre that the developers Scottish Metropolitan have built next to the Usher Hall. Edinburgh District Council is providing the £3.4 million needed to fit out the theatre, and the company expects to move in to what it claims is "Britain's first ever purpose built theatre for new writing" by summer next year. Is the company worried by having a subterranean home? "No, it will be nothing like the Barbican Pit, if that's what you mean," said a spokesman.

Brown's back

AFTER his unfortunate brush with the law put him behind bars, America's "Godfather of Soul", James Brown, has been off the scene for a couple of years. But he will be in London on an apt date — *Independence Day*, July 4 — with a show at Wembley Arena. Now 62, he is not quite so storming a

performer as in his famous 1960s concerts at New York's Apollo. But his high standing, even among those not born when he first began his career, is likely to be further boosted by the imminent release of a five-CD career retrospective, said to include a previously unused ten-minute version of the definitive Brown anthem, "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag".

More Arabian nights

IN TRIBUTE to the late Sir David Lean, *Lawrence of Arabia* is to be shown at the Prince Charles Cinema, off Leicester Square, for a limited season from today. Lean's 1962 epic, trimmed for cinematic release, was restored in 1989 to its original grandiose length; this is the version that will be screened.

Potted feature

DENNIS Potter, purveyor of sexy television drama for the intelligentsia, is to direct his first feature film, which he has also written. *Secret Friends* will be the first fruit of Potter's own newly-formed company, Whistling Gypsy Productions, and its plot has a reassuringly Potteresque ring: "a chilling exploration of the disturbing relationship between a man and the young woman he feels impelled to murder". Alan Bates and Gina Bellman will star.



Potter: to direct his first feature, *Secret Friends*

Mozart unstuck

SATED with Mozart in this bicentenary year? So is the British composer Michael Finnissy whose trio, which is acronyms entitled *WAM*, has its first performance at the Prague Spring Festival next month. The

piece is composed, the composer explains, of a "myriad fragments of Mozart. It is a montage, or possibly the result of bizarre archaeology, a gluing together of fragments whose original design and purpose is no longer discernible nor fully understood."

Last Chance...

Barbara Lebow's subtle and moving play *My Lovely... Shyama Maidel* has not caught the general public's taste, and tomorrow will see the last performance at the Ambassadors (071-836 6111). Holocaust plays may be difficult to sell, but this one found an original way to draw present and past together. It gave the young survivor (Anita Dobson), bemused by boisterous New York in 1946, a family of vanished relatives to people the stage around her.

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Philip Howard

No holding the King's English

Despite the pronouncements of princes, our language has never stood still

The Prince of Wales shoots from the hip, sometimes like a grouchy fogey with a blunderbuss, hoping to pepper an expert or three. But Charles hit the bull's-eye for once with his trumpet call for Shakespeare on the school curriculum (except that it already is). Shakespeare is one of the foundation texts of English, along with the Authorised Version and the Prayer Book. You can find anything you want in Shakespeare. He is a lake in which crocodiles can swim and sucking doves can paddle. He is a good authority for refuting one of the sillier bees in the prince's feathers: that the English language is going to the dogs, and that the young cannot write or talk proper any more. In Shakespeare you can find the evidence that grammar and spelling and pronunciation have changed, as they must, continually since he wrote. The notion that there was once a golden age of English pronunciation and grammar from which we have sadly declined is princely fogies' poppycock. New generations constantly remake the language for their new needs. Take pronunciation.

What word is always pronounced wrong in English? The only one I know is "wrong". Pronunciations change as continually as grammar, vocabulary, idiom, and all the other departments of language. If we could hear Elizabeth I, Shakespeare, and even Dr Johnson speaking today, they would sound to us like poor players mouthing Mummeret.

One of the changes that gets farthest up the noses of those who were taught to speak proper is a shift in accent. Here are some examples of these new pronunciations that vex those brought up with "correct" elocution, with the new "wrong" stresses marked: comparable, primarily, contribute, irrevocable, temporarily, formidable, commendable, irreparable, lamentable, committal.

Various tides are at work on our pronunciation. There is the English habit of concentrating stress on one syllable, rather than stressing all syllables equally with the clarity of the French. There is recessive accent, or the drift of this usually single stress towards the beginning of the word. Running counter to this tide is the English repugnance to strings of obscure and tongue-twisting syllables. We find it easier to put the stress in the middle of a polysyllable. As usual with English, there is considerable class cross-current: the educated pronounce this way, oiks that way.

This war of the accents has been going on since the beginning of English. For example, Shakespeare evidently pronounced commendable with the stress on the first syllable, because of recessive accent. Claudius: "Tis sweet and commendable in your nature, Hamlet." Graziano: "Thanks, I faith, for silence is only commendable / In a neat's tongue dried and a maid not vendible." Audifius in

Coriolanus: "And power, unto itself most commendable, / Hath not a tomb so evident, as a chair / Texted what it hath done." In each of these examples, the tug of the metre shows that commendable was to be pronounced with the stress on the first syllable. Two centuries later, the stress had shifted forward to the second syllable, so that Dr Johnson noted in his entry on the word in his dictionary: "Anciently accented on the first syllable."

Johnson had recognised that change is inevitable and continuous in pronunciation, as in the other parts of language: "It remains that we retard what we cannot cure." But he too had his hobby-horses of correct pronunciation. He always pronounced the word *heard*, as if spelt with a double e, *heerd*, instead of sounding it *herd*, as Boswell recorded was most usually done. Perhaps this was partly a hangover from Sam's early Staffordshire pronunciation, but, characteristically, he had a more bombastic explanation when challenged: "He said, his reason was, that if it were pronounced *herd*, there would be a single exception from the English pronunciation of the syllable *ear*, and he thought it better not to have that exception."

Many of Johnson's campaigns for proper English were lost long ago in the shifting sands of time. He ticked off Boswell for using the phrase to *make money*: "Don't you see the impropriety of it? To make money is to coin it; you say get money." No you don't any more, prince. He was prompt to repress colloquial barbarisms, such as *pledging myself for line for department* or *branch*, as in the civil line, the banking line. And he was particularly indignant against the use of the word *idea* in the sense of notion or opinion. As a sound classical scholar, Johnson knew that *idea* can signify only something of which an image can be formed in the mind. That battle is long lost. We are dealing with English here, not Plato. An *idea* has come to mean a notion, opinion, or any old thingamajig, because that is the way English-speakers have decided to go.

If Sam Johnson got his pronunciation wrong and lost his battles for linguistic purity, there is no hope of us lesser epigoni doing any better. We can carry on putting the stress where we were taught to until our pronunciation sticks out like the Bass Rock. If we persevere in saying *heard* or *proffered* then, we are showing off, and declaring that we know better than the rest of mankind. Benjamin Franklin advised: "Write with the learned, pronounce with the vulgar." It depends a bit on who you are writing to, and how vulgar. But to take a stand for proper pronunciation is to stand on sand as the tide comes in, as one of the prince's predecessors demonstrated 12 centuries ago.

...and moreover
ALAN COREN

Among the three or four things I have never understood, prime, beyond question, is the hanging basket. There are so many aspects of it not to understand, moreover, that it is almost impossible to know where to begin trying not to think about them. And now, God help me, a new one has come along, more baffling, perhaps, than all the rest.

Traditionally, if one were bent on getting to the bottom of something, one would start at the top, as with man's ceaseless quest for this and that. If I were musing on intergalactic hardware, or tea-making alarm-clocks, or improvements to the putter, that is where I should kick off. I should identify the yearning, and, taking the scalpel in my right hand, begin to poke about in it.

But what can it possibly be that drives the human animal to climb up a ladder, hang a bowl of mud on it, fill this bowl with shiny new nasturtiums, pelargoniums, and lobelias, and then come down the ladder again to watch the stuff he has just planted begin dying?

It cannot be hortiphilia, even if the word existed, that drives him; who that cared for plants would so unconsciously stuff them within confines designed first to embarrass them, and then to kill? Embarrass, because what are these poor bloody things doing half-way up a house, check-by-jowl in prosthic soil, if not look-

ing ridiculous? Certainly, they are not looking lovely: had God intended gardens to grow this way, he would have given Adam a Black & Decker. From which we may also deduce that the basketeer cannot be driven by devotional urge, either; or, come to that, good taste.

There is, I suppose, an outside chance that man's motivation is buried somewhere in that unique and wondrous boon, his sense of humour. Given that - for a brief period, at least - he will trudge back and forth through his house with his ladder and his watering-can on the daily basis laid down in his new leaflet, it is just possible that he feels all this effort to be worth while, provided enough visitors to his step end up with molten John Innes falling on their heads. Few of us, after all, have not toyed with the idea of the bucket on the door; Billy Bunter has much to answer for.

Or there is *stivism*. There is always *stivism*. Like you, I have never really known what the Hanging Gardens of Babylon were, except, of course, one of the ancient world's seven wonders, and in order to qualify for a gong like that, it is on the cards that what Nebuchadnezzar commissioned - he had the money - was a wire basket half a mile across, attached to the front wall of his palace by the sort of chains you could get in those days and containing not only ten million trailing fuschias but a wealth of stone penguins, decorated marble, ornamental ponds, and a barbeque gazebo where the royal

Where the public has no power to choose, authority tends to run amok - as the government never tires of repeating. Preventing this in the public services this must mean breaking the control of monopolistic professions. Open the school system to choice and you weaken the power of teaching orthodoxy.

The breaking of cartels in the social services, much more than in consumer goods, gives ordinary people control over their own lives. Now that the government has begun to dismantle the centralised command structure of health and education, we should look very hard at those areas in which authority is still held by impregnable, self-validating professions. Social workers and their employers are due for just such examination.

We have less tolerance now for groups with unchallenged authority, especially when they seem to oppose mainstream values. In the case of education, parents are reacting not only against teaching methods which fail to stretch children, but against the vision of a uniformly egalitarian society in which excellence is seen as divisive.

What angers them is the suspicion that teachers, under a guise of technical expertise, are working to their own social and political programme. If educationists are pursuing their own dream of equality, social workers seem to be determined on rooting out what they see as oppression. Their professional ideology has been deeply influenced by radical politics - especially feminism - which characterises the nuclear family as repressive and all men as potential rapists and child abusers. Their training literature is full of explicitly political tracts advocating the use of social work as a force for restructuring society.

Whether or not one agrees with their theories, what is at issue is the way social workers are free to act as agents working to establish a new social order. This self-appointed, prescriptive power can become a crusade carried on virtually unchecked (except by occasional bursts of media criticism).

Where the recipients of services have no power of choice, the self-governing, self-licensing professions can become wildly out of touch with public opinion. Being responsible for their own training procedures and rules of entry, it is easy for them to develop an inbred culture. Ideologically acceptable views become entrenched by being handed down through training institutes and enforced by employers who have been through the same professional mill themselves.

Discussion becomes absurdly incestuous, as prestige within the profession comes to depend upon developing more and more extreme twists in the orthodoxy. A glance at the texts of educational or social work theory reveals a literature as surreal as *Alice in Wonderland*. Infiltration by activists may help to explain the overt politicisation of the approach, but it is only part of the story.

The specialism of professional training itself increases the likelihood that arcane ideology will flourish. But what is most disturbing for those on the receiving end of this theoretical excess is that there is no mechanism of public control over the fads and excesses of the profession until it is too late: until some outrageous incident brings the whole trend to public attention. Whatever ideas are in vogue in professional circles can be plugged

A caring code for an uncaring profession

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into practice with immediate and uncritical fervour. (The fashion for detecting ritual child abuse may well be an example.)

But what is the alternative? Populism is a crude tool for reforming professional lobbies, even if they have become dangerously arrogant. Not every controversy can be settled by an appeal to the sentiments of the bus queue. There is no obvious analogue for the market here. In social work, which has a brief which combines caring and policing, individual choice cannot come into play. Only a firm legal structure can keep any check on the arbitrariness of professional power. Where there is no choice, accountability must be enforced.

I hope the judicial review of the Orkney child abuse cases will lead to the establishment of an apparatus for public vigilance over a profession which has the power to create so much unhappiness. Professional mystification combined with an amateurish failure to exercise control has got us into a sorry state. A public aware that it need not remain passive in the face of authority should be able to find some solution.

Defusing the time bomb

Salesmen are back, peddling their arms as 'combat proven', writes Anthony Sampson. Can we stop them?



John Major's determination to control arms sales to prevent the threat from Saddam Hussein's of the future is a promising sign. But will it mark a serious change from the traditional hubbub of all Western nations, which deplore the danger of selling arms while competing as strongly as ever to sell their own? Already the arms salesmen are back in the fray, peddling weaponry that has been "combat proven" during the Gulf war.

There is now a unique opportunity to reach a global agreement to control arms sales. The arming of Saddam was the most flagrant case since the second world war of the irresponsibility of arms-selling to a potential enemy and has outraged public opinion. If it cannot be controlled now, it probably never will be. But bold and consistent political leadership is needed to convert outrage into effective action. Is Mr Major - or any other Western leader - prepared to take up this challenge?

Mr Major has rightly begun with two fundamental points. The first is that the five members of the Security Council, who voted unanimously to attack Saddam Hussein, were the five nations which did most to arm him. Logically, if they can agree to go to war, they should be able to agree to stop arming potential enemies.

Mr Major's second point is the need for a UN arms register to keep track of the kind of crazy arms-sales which built up Saddam Hussein's arsenal, and which in another two years could have made him impregnable. It is a familiar idea, already put forward by Mrs Brundland, the former prime minister of Norway, and Edward Shevardnadze the former Soviet foreign minister, and endorsed by the British Liberal

Democrats. It is none the worse for that, and the monitoring of arms selling is clearly a prerequisite of control.

In the past, such proposals have been frustrated by the confrontations of the cold war, and by commercial competition between Western nations. And the Middle East, with its combination of oil money and political instability, has been an irresistible arena for arms-sellers. But today a combination of changes has brought arms-control within reach.

First, the Gulf war has revealed the superiority of American technology. This has enabled Washington to make the running, and has discredited both French and Soviet equipment. The French, who have long been the most cynical arms sellers, are now seriously rethinking their policies after their disastrous role in arming Saddam and their poor showing in the Gulf war. At the French socialist conference earlier this month, three prominent leaders - Michel Rocard, Laurent

Fabius and Pierre Mauroy - all put control of arms sales near the top of their party agenda.

The European powers in Nato (who have long competed to sell weapons abroad to subsidise their own arms industries) are having to co-ordinate their weapons systems more closely, while their arms companies are forming consortia across frontiers.

The Israelis, whose economy is strained to the limit by the huge costs of absorbing Soviet Jews, are looking for a regional agreement to avoid a costly new arms-race while ensuring their own security. The major donors of aid to developing countries, including the World Bank and Japan (the biggest national donor of all), are at last facing up to the need to make aid conditional upon restrictions on arms spending.

Linking aid to restraints on arms spending - which has the strong support of a former president of the World Bank, Robert McNamara - could prove the

most far-reaching of these developments, for many of the biggest arms-buyers and arms-producers in the third world are dependent on foreign aid. Among these is China, which has been one of the most dangerous suppliers of weapons to the Gulf, but which needs its foreign aid far more than its revenue from arms sales.

The developing countries themselves have always opposed Western restraints on their arms buying, complaining about neo-imperialist paternalism which discriminates against them while leaving the major powers free to arm.

But now that the two superpowers are themselves reducing their arsenals, the developing countries have less reason to complain: that there are two standards - and many of them have been ruined by their own arms-buying.

These new opportunities for restricting arms sales present a special challenge to the United States, as the major supplier of new technologies and the most

influential power in the Middle East. Unfortunately, however, Washington has so far revealed a striking lack of political leadership. George Bush has been ambivalent: he has talked about the need for controls, but he has also asked for more export credits to enable arms companies to sell to less prosperous developing countries. He has shown little desire to confront the arms companies, led by General Dynamics and Raytheon (the maker of Patriot missiles), which are pressing for new markets for their combat-proven missiles. In the meantime, the Democrats feel inhibited from advocating arms control, because they have been heavily criticised for having voted against the war with Iraq.

There is thus a special need and opportunity for British leadership; but the British have their own embarrassments. The Conservatives are reluctant to face up to Britain's over-zealous arms-selling in the past or to the now-and-then attitude of the Department of Trade and Industry, which allowed exporters to mix up military with civilian technology, and to export weapons to one country knowing that they would go on to another.

Like the Democrats, Labour politicians are nervous of being branded as pacifists, and are vulnerable to the arms lobbies, which have a disproportionate influence in many Labour constituencies. So it has been left to the Liberals to make a firm commitment to campaign for arms control - until this week. But John Major now seems to have taken up the challenge. It remains to be seen whether he will turn it into a serious campaign, which would antagonise some of his colleagues and party financiers.

Only a sustained and patient diplomatic effort can achieve a lasting agreement, but it must be launched now, to take advantage of the surge of public opinion and the conjunction of opportunities round the world. It will be tragic if this chance is not seized, for next time the West has to fight an enemy which it has armed, it might lose.

Anthony Sampson is the author of *The Arms Bazaar* (Coronet).

Blackening the green initiative

To its deep embarrassment yesterday, the government's latest green initiative backfired before it had even been launched. Michael Heseltine and Peter Lilley are in the process of setting up a task-force of businessmen to co-ordinate a more environmentally friendly industrial policy. In recent weeks the two ministers have written to most of Britain's leading companies asking for nominations, which they had hoped to announce next month. But to the undisguised annoyance of both ministries, news has leaked that the government is to ask John Evans, chairman of Shell-UK, to chair the group.

When told of the choice yesterday, the green lobby was appalled. Only last November, Shell bankrolled the campaign, which killed off "the Big Green", the voter proposition in California which would have halted the felling of Californian redwood forests, limited offshore oil and gas exploitation, and taxed oil companies to provide a \$500 million fund to fight oil spills. Shell spent \$608,000 defeating the proposition, saying it was "concerned" about the potential impact on business.

Closer to home, Shell has been asked by Friends of the Earth to pay the cost of cleaning up hundreds of acres of farmland around the River Newlyn in west Cornwall. The river is contaminated with aldrin, a dangerous pesticide, which was banned by the government last May, and which was manufactured solely by Shell Chemicals. Signs have been posted along the riverbank warning people not to eat fish or eels caught in the river. Naturalists also believe the pesticide has been a major contributor to the demise



of the area's other population. A spokesman for Shell dismissed the attacks. "Any oil company with refineries is going to know what this task-force should be about. We have more opportunity to put things right than those on the sidelines with high ideals."

● *Kitty Kelley has admitted that she got it wrong in her now notorious biography of Nancy Reagan, which is published in Britain this week. "I'm wrong. I think it's a bit of sloppiness and I apologise," astonished listeners heard her say on BBC Radio One last night. But before the Reagans call off the lawyers, they should know that the admission of error related only to the title of the song "Nancy with the laughing face". The book refers to "Nancy with the smiling face". The mistake is odd, for the name ought to be familiar: Kelley herself uses it on her answerphone.*

Speaking of princes

Prince Charles's views on education are to receive a lofty endorsement in the House of Lords in the maiden speech of Baroness James of Holland Park. Better known as the doyen of crime novelists P.D. James, the baroness is currently writing a rallying call to the Prince's cause. "When I went to school," says the creator of the elegant detective Adam Dalglish, "we were taught to use English succinctly, elegantly and ac-

curately. Prince Charles is quite correct and I share all his views. I will be delighted to devote my maiden speech to the subject."

But the baroness, who was in the Lords yesterday listening to a debate on animal welfare, has not fixed a date. "It will be soon, but I want to wait until I get the feel of the place first," she says.

Classical thrash

Jimmi Hendrix must be pinwheeling in his grave at the news that *Purple Haze* is about to join Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* in the classical ballet repertoire. The young British choreographer William Tuckett describes the work, which the Birmingham Royal Ballet is due to stage next month as "a thrash classical ballet". Thrash? "It is a word to describe a mixture of heavy metal and punk music," he explains helpfully. Five dancers will abandon their tights and tutus for Madonna-style bodices as they trace their classical movements to the beat of the man who was known in the late 1960s as "the wild man of rock".

"The ballet is a celebration of dance and dancers and not a statement against convention," says a ballet spokeswoman somewhat unconvincedly. The programme will go under the title

of the area's other population. A spokesman for Shell dismissed the attacks. "Any oil company with refineries is going to know what this task-force should be about. We have more opportunity to put things right than those on the sidelines with high ideals."

License My Roving Hands, a time from John Donne's "Elegie: On his Mistress Going to Bed". Traditionalists might be advised to ensure that they are sitting next to someone they know well.

Hurd's little flutter

Flags are flying again at the Foreign Office, thanks to Douglas Hurd. In recent months the foreign secretary became irked when gazing out of his Whitehall window to see that alone among his Cabinet colleagues he headed a department without a working flagpole. He fired off letters in all directions demanding to know why. The reply from the Treasury was succinct and to the point: the flagpole was rotten, and no funds were available for a replacement. To the Treasury's annoyance, Hurd decided to pull rank. He raised the matter at the highest level, and funds for a new pole were miraculously found.

But the foreign secretary was not satisfied. He could not help noticing how limply the flag hung at the mast, comparing unfavourably to the flags flying fluttering impressively above the Kremlin, courtesy of a wind-machine. If the Russians can do it so can we, Hurd decided, so he wrote to David Mellor, the chief secretary to the Treasury, demanding a wind-machine of his own. Yesterday he received the Treasury's reply. Nothing doing, the practitioners of the dismal science have told him. But they had one recommendation. "There is so much hot air expended at the FO already, that an air-duct could be used to circulate it in the direction of the flag."

● An unfortunate result from the men's team event in the world table-tennis championships currently taking place in China, Japan: "Group D, United States w.o. (walk over) Kuwait."



SMOK

Mikhail Gorbachev has the tactical skills tested as new correspondents were asked to join the plenary session of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Mr Gorbachev yesterday offered to secretary. The offer was the more remarkable was the earlier this week by Mr Gorbachev, by the president, Boris Yeltsin, of eight other republics, a tough talking and the at turning point.

There are, however, 200 million. Threatening to Gorbachev's favourite point. Opposition to his party leader was not as suggested. This central ex had no power to oust the was unlikely even to try.

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DOCT

Some diseases can be preve that affects us all - morali cured. Those who give a avoid contracting lung can will die of some other bodi decade or two later. But wil be stamped out, both the length of life can be increa seminar this weekend, mini will discuss how this gain c within available public fun

The National Health i introduced last month, a more choice to those who Local health service manag incentive, not to do the bi hospital consultants but tr their patients. The interna increase the amount of c directing money towards e But cash will always be invisible hand of the marke the value judgments invol an annual £30 billion hea These choices used to b

how way. Doctors with the because they worked in hig ties, tended to win the mo has always been rationed, waiting lists, sometimes t they cannot be treated at all will make these choices n All the more reason for he use a systematic method who will and who will not n

The government's new discussed at the weekend, a William Waldegrave, the wants to reduce avoidable cancer, heart disease and medicine - screening a people not to smoke and t

JOLI

For Dr Shoichi Okinaga of University, today promise exciting day. He lunche College, Oxford, where elected him an honorary a ranks. A car will then w Edmund's College, Cambr a sumptuous dinner, a sim esteem of the fellows will b

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1500

Janet Daley



SMOKE-FILLED DACHAS

Mikhail Gorbachev has this week found his tactical skills tested as never before. Western correspondents were agog at the melodrama of the plenary session of the central committee of the Communist party, where Mr Gorbachev yesterday rounded on his critics and offered to resign as general secretary. The offer was quickly rejected. More remarkable was the document signed earlier this week by Mr Gorbachev as Soviet president, by the president of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, and by the leaders of eight other republics. Mr Gorbachev's tough talking and the apparent reconciliation with his rival may prove to be a turning point.

There are, however, grounds for scepticism. Threatening to resign is Mr Gorbachev's favourite means of gaining a point. Opposition to his continuation as party leader was not as serious as rumour suggested. This central committee plenum had no power to oust the general secretary; it was unlikely even to try.

This week's plenum, stormy as it was, proved no more than that Mr Gorbachev may need yet another purge of the party hierarchy. His resort to threats was proof, if proof were needed, that there are middle-level cadres advocating a tougher clamp-down than the one which (let it not be forgotten) has actually taken place over the last six months. But they offer no alternative to Mr Gorbachev as Soviet leader.

The Soviet president cannot play this card so easily against Mr Yeltsin. The Russian president left the Communist party last year, has retained the fickle esteem of his countrymen and now enjoys respect abroad. Mr Gorbachev needs Mr Yeltsin's help to break the new wave of strikes. He also knows that Mr Yeltsin becomes stronger all the time. Once the Russian Federation has held direct presidential elections in June, Mr Yeltsin's claim to democratic leadership in Russia will be undeniable.

But Mr Gorbachev still holds the reins of power, however loosely. The deal which he offered to the nine republican leaders whom he invited to his dacha last Tuesday had something for everyone. There would be an end to strikes and civil disobedience, as Mr Gorbachev wanted, but no ban on rallies, which would have damaged Mr Yeltsin.

The same spirit of compromise informed the clauses dealing with the constitutional

conflict between the Union and the republics. The latter would embrace a new Union treaty (good for Mr Gorbachev). An "enlarged role" for the republics (good for Mr Yeltsin) would be enshrined six months later in a new Soviet constitution, ratified by the Congress of People's Deputies.

The six remaining republics, whose declarations of independence are not recognised by the Kremlin and which were not invited to this gathering, were conceded the "right" to decide for themselves about the new treaty, but no details were agreed. The text says nothing about a new mechanism for leaving the Union. It states only that republics which refused to sign the new treaty would lose their preferential treatment in the supply of materials and energy.

Finally, the document says, should come the "election of the organs of Soviet power". This appears to hasten the day when the Communist-dominated Congress must submit itself to fresh elections, and when Mr Gorbachev's presidency itself may be submitted for the first time to the free electoral judgment of the people. This is good news.

Outside the Moscow bearpit, this week's events may have changed little. Strikers declared yesterday that they would only return to work if Mr Yeltsin personally appealed to them: they do not trust the deal that emerged from the dacha in Novoye Ogaryovo. In Lithuania, Soviet paratroops carried out more raids yesterday. Discontent seethes across the steppes, which are as indifferent to Moscow politics as the incompetent Soviet bureaucracy, which is flooding the economy with worthless roubles and is now facing open revolt in cities from Leningrad to Minsk.

Not tactical gymnastics in Russian dachas but a full reform programme is required to rectify the worst Soviet slump in living memory. A compromise between two camps is not such a programme. But it suggests that Mr Gorbachev is not strong enough to cold-shoulder the man who may one day supplant him. The Soviet president shows no sign of abandoning the Communist party, but slapping down his hardliners will do him no harm in the country. As for Mr Yeltsin, he has been given a share of responsibility for the Soviet economy — and blame for its failings. He should now press his advantage. For him there can be no turning back.

DOCTORING THE TARGETS

Some diseases can be prevented, but the one that affects us all — mortality — can never be cured. Those who give up smoking and avoid contracting lung cancer in their sixties will die of some other bodily malfunction a decade or two later. But while disease cannot be stamped out, both the quality and the length of life can be increased. At a Chequers seminar this weekend, ministers and doctors will discuss how this gain can be maximised within available public funds.

The National Health Service reforms, introduced last month, will help to give more choice to those who use health care. Local health service managers now have an incentive, not to do the best by their local hospital consultants but to do the best by their patients. The internal market should increase the amount of care available, by directing money towards efficient hospitals. But cash will always be short, and the invisible hand of the market cannot make all the value judgments involved in allocating an annual £30 billion health budget.

These choices used to be made in an *ad hoc* way. Doctors with the most clout, often because they worked in high-profile specialties, tended to win the most money. Health has always been rationed, usually through waiting lists, sometimes by telling people they cannot be treated at all. The new system will make these choices more transparent. All the more reason for health managers to use a systematic method for determining who will and who will not receive treatment.

The government's new targets, to be discussed at the weekend, are the easy cases. William Waldegrave, the health secretary, wants to reduce avoidable, early deaths from cancer, heart disease and strokes. Preventive medicine — screening and encouraging people not to smoke and to eat healthily —

can make a difference. More than 30,000 people die of lung cancer in the United Kingdom each year. Studies at York University have found that counselling by GPs is the most cost-effective way of preventing lung cancer deaths.

But there is no pressure group representing those now apparently fit who will die of kidney failure or heart attacks in ten years' time. Left to itself, the market would not throw up disease prevention. A certain amount of central dirigisme is needed. General practitioners are already given financial incentives to screen for cervical cancer, conduct immunisations and run health education clinics. They now need to discuss healthy living with all their patients, not just those who demonstrate their motivation by turning up to a clinic.

Targets will be useful to those who have to decide the hard cases. To see if targets are being reached, outcomes have to be measured. At the moment, little research is done on how well the NHS meets its objectives, or indeed on what those objectives are. Health economists have devised various theoretical ways of assessing treatments, which calculate how much they improve people's quality of life and for how many years.

A hip replacement that allows a wheelchair-bound person to walk painlessly again may be judged more useful than an expensive cancer drug that might give a terminally ill patient an extra month to live. Yet until these two treatments can be measured against the same scale, managers can only follow their hunches. Mr Waldegrave must devote money to measuring what is most worth doing. Only then can he, the health service and the public know that they are spending public money wisely.

JOLLY GOOD FELLOWS

For Dr Shoichi Okinaga of Japan's Teikyo University, today promises to be a most exciting day. He lunches at Wadham College, Oxford, where the fellows have elected him an honorary addition to their ranks. A car will then whisk him to St Edmund's College, Cambridge, where, over a sumptuous dinner, a similar mark of the esteem of the fellows will be granted him.

What singular academic achievement has evoked this unprecedented recognition? Dr Okinaga is a fully qualified doctor of medicine, but it has to be said that nobody can name a wonder drug he has invented, none can identify his contribution to physiology nor bear witness to his miraculous healing powers. The fellows in reaching their decision have been moved by Dr Okinaga's devotion to an internationalist view of education, a belief which has taken concrete form in his donation of £4.5 million to Wadham and £1.5 million to St Edmund's.

In return Dr Okinaga has been given the right to nominate six postgraduates (appropriately qualified) to Wadham, and a similar number to St Edmund's, and certain other prerogatives to secure closer links between the British and Japanese.

Traditionalists will doubtless lament the pollution of the stream of pure learning by Mammon. But there is nothing new about choosing honorary fellows on non-academic grounds. The present fellows of St Edmund's

are led by the Duke of Norfolk, among whose manifold virtues intellectual prowess is not the chief. The shift represented by Dr Okinaga's elevation is a different one: from old money to new money, from aristocracy to plutocracy, from insularity to the global perspective; in short, progress.

A more challenging question might be why the colleges do not go the whole hog. Each would publish a tariff so much for an honorary degree, more for a doctorate, more still for a fellowship. (Similar proposals have sometimes been made for the sale of national honours, to benefit the Exchequer.) Institutions which charged too much would find that others attracted the cash, the academic facilities, the students and the acclaim. Casualties there would be, but the market would settle to a felicitous equilibrium eventually.

It will not happen because honour is a delicate flower. The colleges know they may go only so far. If honour be bought and sold, who will honour it (or pay for it)? Falstaff's honour might not set a leg, might indeed be vulnerable to detraction. But a veil of generous bluff must stay in place. Mr Okinaga's fellowship is presented as a reward only for his merit, and he will wonder at the genteel inscrutability of *Academia Britannica*. May more of his countrymen likewise grace our seats of learning.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

The pot, the kettle and the Institute

From Mr Philip Middleton
Sir, Introspection and self-criticism do not appear to be British characteristics. It is perhaps unsurprising, therefore, to read that the Institute of Directors finds the government so much to blame for the present financial climate (reports, April 24).

Many people living in Britain in 1979 would have been as surprised as is the chairman of British Petroleum, Mr Robert Horton, if they had been able to see into the future of 1991. But they would have seen it coming by 1983 or 1984, in a way that the Institute of Directors apparently did not.

It has always seemed to me that Mrs Thatcher must have been deeply disappointed by the very limited response her courageous attempts to reform the economy drew from management. A truly entrepreneurial establishment would have thrown themselves into reinvestment in technology and research with enthusiasm. The British management hierarchy threw themselves with equal enthusiasm into higher wages and much, much higher salaries and bonuses. Bonuses for what, one might ask.

If this country ends up with a Labour government in a year's time it will not be the fault of the Tories. It will be the fault of industry, who have taken too much from the country over the past 12 years and put too little back.

Yours etc,
PHILIP MIDDLETON,
84 St Katharine's Way, E1,
April 24.

From Mr Simon Burns, MP for Chesham (Conservative)
Sir, As someone who worked at the Institute of Directors prior to my election in 1987 I was amazed to read the comments of its director general, Peter Morgan. I remember a time when the institute had the guts to stand up during the 1980-2 recession and defend the government for its tough economic policies at a time when it was not popular in certain circles to take this course of action.

At that time the institute was right in its assessment of the economic situation. It is a pity that it now fails to appreciate that Britain is not the only country suffering from an economic down-turn.

This government has had the courage over the last two years to take some fairly tough decisions to rectify the problems facing the British economy. With inflation now falling, and interest rates following suit, it would seem that the corner is being turned and we are on our way to pulling ourselves out of recession.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON BURNS,
House of Commons,
April 24.

From Professor Mino Green
Sir, Talk about the pot calling the kettle black! It is as plain as a pikestaff that the nation's lack of economic resilience arises from chronic short-termism, leading to under-investment in education, research and the physical infrastructure, let alone manufacturing methods.

A little less naked greed for money and power from the Institute of Directors, and a little more sense of duty and responsibility for the national well-being, would not come amiss.

Yours faithfully,
MINO GREEN,
Imperial College of Science,
Technology and Medicine,
Department of Electrical Engineering,
Exhibition Road, SW7.

From Mr David Butler
Sir, I didn't see much sign of the recession in the lunch menu in your photograph (April 24) of the Institute of Directors at the Albert Hall. I usually have a cheese sandwich under the hedge.

Sincerely,
DAVID BUTLER,
Wootley Green Farm,
Brimsford,
Rushmore, Hampshire.

From Mr Adrian Peacock
Sir, Recent spring sunshine saw the reappearance of swarms of youths washing windcreens, uninvited, at road junctions in London, with the youths complaining at any signs of reluctance to pay.

The Metropolitan and City police seem to make no attempt to stop what is frequently a considerable nuisance to drivers and inevitably interferes with an already very slow-moving traffic flow. Moreover, might there not be a temptation to "jump" the amber lights to avoid being first in the queue?

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN PEACOCK,
31 Romney Road, SE27.

Indian rejoinder

From the High Commissioner for India
Sir, The letter you have published on "atrocities in Kashmir" (April 15) makes an unsubstantiated and baseless accusation that more than 4,000 Kashmiris have been "murdered by the Indian security forces" and that men between the ages of 15 and 45 have been systematically killed.

The allegation of mass rape of girls and women aged six to 85 years by the security forces was investigated by three different authorities at different levels and found to be unsustainable. I may add that in India the conclusions reached by official investigations are subject to rigorous scrutiny and effective, wide-ranging and independent judicial review, entailing punishment in cases of human-rights lapses.

The Indian legal system does not countenance or condone violations of human rights. On the other hand, the possibility of false testimony to mislead the visiting journalists and to discredit the government of India under the pressure of terrorists cannot be ruled out.

Strangely enough the signatories to the letter have chosen to overlook the "atrocities" of terrorism in Kashmir, including countless killings and kidnappings. The murder of the late Dr Yashwantrao Chavan, the kidnapping of the

Controls on the spread of heroin

From Dr Tom Carnwath
Sir, Your leader, "Menace of drug wars" (April 18), fails to take account of all the developments in drug services that have occurred over the last five years, particularly in response to fears of an HIV epidemic. It also does not appreciate the important distinction that exists between prescribing and purveying.

If heroin were freely available through off-licences like alcohol, it would certainly do away with the black market in heroin (though not in all the other drugs that are widely abused). Heroin by prescription will not eliminate the black market, mainly because many opiate users do not want to be involved exclusively in a prescribing relationship. Readers of your paper who enjoy alcohol would probably be equally unhappy to obtain all their supplies through a doctor in exchange for health counselling.

The policy of the Department of Health is already very similar to that recommended by your leader. It advocates that health workers "must be prepared to work with those who continue to misuse drugs to help them reduce the risk in doing so, above all the risk of acquiring or spreading HIV infection".

In response to this, many community drug teams have been formed which aim to influence users to do less damage to themselves and society through crime and the spread of infection. Long-term opiates are prescribed where necessary.

In the district in which I work we have had great success in attracting users and helping them lead healthier and more stable lives; but the funding for community drug teams, and for research into their work, is still inadequate.

Yours sincerely,
TOM CARNWATH,
Grafton House, Marlborough Road,
Bosworth, Leicestershire,
April 18.

From the Reverend Kenneth Leech
Sir, Your editorial is timely. From the publication of the second Brain report (November 1965) onwards, a number of us were pointing out, often through your columns, how precarious and dangerous the situation was. A combination of official lethargy (including the long delay in setting up the treatment centres recommended by Brain) with inept legislation, leading to the ending of some necessary medical activity, was bound to lead to an escalation of the criminal market in heroin and cocaine.

On November 9, 1966, you

trickles, were hatched by the heat of controversy.

Perhaps for the rest of 1991 the Anglican episcopate should call a close season on allegations of heresy.

Yours faithfully,
NOEL HUGHES,
16 Mount Ararat Road,
Richmond, Surrey.

From the Reverend Dr Gordon Huelin
Sir, Pace the Bishop of Oxford, and according to the late Dr J. R. H. Moorman's *History of the Church in England*, it was not Matthew but Thomas Arnold who in 1832 declared that "the Church of England as it now stands no human power can save".

Yours faithfully,
GORDON HUELIN,
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1.

Enthusiasm in church

From Mr Noel Hughes
Sir, The Bishop of Oxford's statement ("Forward to a stirring tune", April 19) that "Mr Ronald Knox thought enthusiasm a sin bordering on heresy" is inept. In the concluding passage of *Enthusiasm* Knox wrote

... in itself enthusiasm is not a wrong tendency but a false emphasis. Quietism exaggerates only a little the doctrine of the mystics about simplicity in prayer, about disinterested love. Quietism does but endorse a dangerous isolation the truth of God's presence within us. Jesusism is the vigilant conscience of Christendom overshadowed by a scruple. Methodism is the call back to Christ in an age of Deism. What men like Pascal, Fenelon and Wesley saw clearly was something true and something valuable; the exaggerations, the ec-

Traffic hazard

From Mr Adrian Peacock
Sir, Recent spring sunshine saw the reappearance of swarms of youths washing windcreens, uninvited, at road junctions in London, with the youths complaining at any signs of reluctance to pay.

The Metropolitan and City police seem to make no attempt to stop what is frequently a considerable nuisance to drivers and inevitably interferes with an already very slow-moving traffic flow. Moreover, might there not be a temptation to "jump" the amber lights to avoid being first in the queue?

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN PEACOCK,
31 Romney Road, SE27.

Reporters on the air

From Mrs Sally Holloway
Sir, Andrew Boyle would have been the first to deny that until 1965 BBC news consisted of mostly "anonymous announcers reading out news agency reports", as your obituary of him (April 24) alleges.

When I joined the BBC News Division in 1951, as a news reporter, there was already a long-established and highly respected staff of news reporters based in London, as well as a first-class team of foreign correspondents.

We broadcast regularly "in voice" (i.e., as ourselves, either live or recorded), not only on the regular news bulletins but in the nightly *Radio Newsweek* and the weekly *Eye Witness* features at home. We provided a comprehensive, round-the-clock, worldwide news and magazine service, again "in voice".

Admittedly, there were fewer recorded interviews, but these were restricted by the available technical equipment rather than lack of editorial inspiration. We worked with a recording engineer and a recorded-programme assistant, cutting discs using complicated installations in the stripped-down back seats of Humber saloon recording cars and, later, extremely heavy "portable" tape-recording boxes; these, of necessity, restricted the use of culvening voice "inserts".

Andrew would, I am sure, not have wished this work to be forgotten.

Yours truly,
SALLY HOLLOWAY,
95 Lonsdale Road,
Barnes, SW13,
April 24.

From Mr Ian McIntyre
Sir, "Mostly anonymous?" Frank Gillard reporting from the Normandy beaches? Leonard Miall from Washington? Christopher Serpell from Rome? Erik de Mauny from Moscow?

Yours faithfully,
IAN MCINTYRE,
Spylaw House,
Newlands Avenue,
Radlett,
Hertfordshire,
April 24.

General makes it sound like it is

From the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the United States of America
Sir, "Who steals my purse steals trash;... But he that filches from me my good name robs me of that which not enriches him, and makes me poor indeed."

Now that the debate over how to pronounce my first name has been featured in your newspaper ("Vowel as in vote", February 22), I feel an obligation to set the pose on the thieves and, without reference to onomastic niceties, tell the truth.

No thief but an excellent writer, Mr Philip Howard made a spirited defence of American individualism and challenged my preferred pronunciation of "Koh-lin" to the American penchant for wanting unique names. Mr Howard and his colleagues are general — for choosing to pronounce my name as its spelling looks. I'm afraid that while I heartily enjoyed his column, the truth is not as bold and brazen as he surmises.

My parents were British subjects and they named me Colin (Koh-lin). Being British, they knew very well how the name was supposed to be pronounced. But when I was a young boy, there was a famous American World War II hero — in fact, one of our first acknowledged heroes in the war — whose name became very popular in the streets of New York City. He was Captain Colin P. Kelly Jr. He was called Koh-lin.

My friends in the streets of the South Bronx, who heard Captain Kelly's name pronounced on the radio and by their parents and other adults, began to refer to me by the same pronunciation. So, I grew up with my friends saying Koh-lin. By the way, I lived on Kelly Street.

I have become comfortable with either pronunciation, but most of my friends call me Koh-lin — much to the regret of most of my British friends who liken this "improper" pronunciation to fingernails sliding down a slate board.

The funny thing about this whole story is how I met Colin P. Kelly III. His father, the war hero, died as a result of his bravado and was given our Distinguished Service Cross. President Roosevelt wrote a letter "To the President of the United States in 1956" and asked him to give Captain Kelly's 18-month-old son an appointment to our military academy at West Point, if the son wanted the appointment at that time.

The boy grew up, accepted the appointment, went to West Point and graduated. He served in our army as an armor officer, went to Vietnam, came home and entered the chaplaincy as an Episcopal priest.

I met him almost ten years ago when I was a brigadier general and he was a lieutenant colonel. I asked him immediately what his name was and when he said Koh-lin Kelly, I was instantly relieved. I said to him, "Thank God, you have been mispronouncing your name all your life also."

Yours,
COLIN L. POWELL, Chairman,
Joint Chiefs of Staff,
Washington, DC 20318-0001, USA.

Nitrogen limitation

From Mr Andrew Stobart
Sir, For many years British agriculture has suffered from importing more energy than it exports, and a large proportion of this has been nitrogen fertilisers (letters, April 8, 10). It is now technically feasible, and is being investigated in other countries, to make one's own fertilisers on the farm, using natural energy such as water and wind to create an electric spark to oxidise nitrogen. In addition, work has been done in the past in the UK on using electric current, again from renewable energy sources, instead of fertilisers.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW STOBART
(Managing Director),
Resource Conservation plc,
100 Main Street,
Great Ouseburn, York.

North of the Border

From Dr A. J. N. Warrack
Sir, May I remind Gordon Robson (April 23) that "Scotch" can be applied to more than whisky, mist or dogs.

The *Scotts Dialect Dictionary* compiled by my grandfather, the Reverend Alexander Warrack, (Chambers, 1911), gives perhaps rather more examples than you have space to print, but I commend to you Scotch European (a Scotsman living on the continent), Scotch fiddle (the fiddle), Scotch mile (1,994 yards) and, for our butchers, Scotch collops (meat slices).

Yours aye,
SANDY WARRACK,
2 Southbourne Court,
Drury Lane, Dore,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

From the Rector of Wrotham

Sir, In Northumbria, where much of the beer comes from north of the border, it is generally referred to as "scotch". I treasure the memory of the Knaith landlady's face — consternation, finger with admiration — when my father, on his first visit south, ordered "two pints of best scotch".

Yours faithfully,
G. A. ROBSON,
The Rectory,
Wrotham, Kent,
April 23.



Commons motion criticises Coats bid

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE focus of the hostile takeover bid by Coats Vuyella for the rival textile group Tootal shifted to Westminster yesterday, when 144 MPs of all parties expressed concern over the bid.

In a Commons motion, they said a takeover could "weaken Britain's position as the leading supplier of industrial thread and threaten the future of some of the most advanced textile factories in Europe".

But the motion came too late to move Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, who, as expected, said the bid would not be referred to the monopolies commission.

Tootal responded by saying it would issue a profit forecast in its defence against the £194 bid. The document will also contain "details of specific projects in each of Tootal's core businesses that are expected to improve profitability in 1992-3." Tomorrow is the last day Tootal can publish new information on the bid under the takeover code timetable.

Coats immediately attacked the promised profit forecast as being based on only two full months of trading in the current year. Coats also demanded the publication of a balance sheet and cashflow statement for the year to end-January 1991.

Pilkington review leads to wave of small sell-offs

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

PILKINGTON, the glass multinational at the centre of recent takeover speculation, has made another disposal as part of a review of operations started last autumn.

Pilkington Reinforcements, which processes glass fibre for engine belts, has been sold to Nippon Sheet Glass (NSG), the group's Japanese partner, for £7.4 million. The company, which sells mainly in Europe and America, made a small profit.

Since Sir Antony Pilkington, the chairman, announced sharply lower interim profits in December, the group has made a series of sales and rationalisations of peripheral businesses. In January, the company sold its loss-making Kinsons insulation contracting business to a German company and raised more than £10 million by selling part of its stake in a Taiwan glass company to NSG. The group also decided to close its loss-making Australian wall cladding business, incurring a substantial extraordinary closure cost.

In February, Pilkington sold loss-making Keith Young (Insulation), a merchanting business, and announced closure of a glass plant in New Zealand which had just run into loss. And last month,



In camera: Sir Antony Pilkington can reflect on the group's rationalisation plans

Pilkington raised about £16 million by selling a half share in its defence optonics business to Thomson, of France. The business made a reduced loss of £1.8 million in

the six months to end-September. Distribution interests in Australia were also reshuffled with another group, Pilkington paying a net £13 million. In total the closures are

expected to lead to big extraordinary losses being written off in the year just ended, for which one City analyst predicts pre-tax profits halved to about £165 million.

IMF chief issues warning on rate cuts

From SUSAN ELLICOTT
IN WASHINGTON

MICHEL Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, has implied that efforts by the Bush administration to drive down international interest rates are misguided.

He told a meeting of the IMF in Washington that the fund's interim committee wanted to avoid rekindling inflation that "could stifle" a global economic recovery.

His remarks came as George Bush, the American president, called for easier credit as the country tries to recover from its first economic slowdown in eight years.

This month, Nicholas Brady, the American Treasury secretary, pressed European banks and policy-makers to lower interest rates, after moves by the Federal Reserve to ease credit. The pressure has annoyed some members of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations, whose economic cycles are more divergent than they have been for several years.

Mr Camdessus said an artificial lowering of short-term interest rates in order to jumpstart the economy risked leading to higher longer-term rates, because international financial markets would not support the move.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Queensland objects to Tate & Lyle bid

THE Queensland state government has told the Australian federal government, in a 35-page submission, that it opposes Tate & Lyle's Aus\$321 million (£145 million) takeover bid for Bundaberg Sugar. It is understood the submission argues that the planned takeover fails to satisfy state government guidelines.

James Kerr Muir, managing director of Tate & Lyle's UK division, said last night that the state government's stand was unexpected and disconcerting. He arrived in Brisbane yesterday for talks with Queensland-based institutional shareholders. "We need to do some more thinking and talking about this before I can comment more," he said.

Five Oaks falls payout

FIVE Oaks Investments, the property company, has axed its interim dividend (0.6p) as it dived into the red after an £8.3 million provision against the value of completed developments. The charge pushed the company to a pre-tax interim loss of £7.88 million to end-December (£431,000 profit). Rental income climbed from £1.28 million to £1.48 million.

Value rises at SM&T

THE net asset value at Scottish Mortgage & Trust increased to 172.3p (163.8p) at end-March. Pre-tax revenue advanced from £19.2 million to £21.9 million in the year to end-March, on gross investment income ahead from £31.7 million to £35.3 million. Earnings per share are 4.42p (3.94p). The final dividend is 2.45p (2.25p), making 3.7p (3.35p).

Kalamazoo improves

KALAMAZOO, the office stationery to business systems group, which achieved a turnaround last year, has continued its recovery and is paying its first interim dividend since 1988. The company, which is controlled by the Kalamazoo Trust, made pre-tax profits of £1.03 million in the six months to end-January, against last time's loss of £1.29 million. Group turnover fell from £31.5 million to £28.3 million.

Overall interest costs were slashed from £791,000 to £63,000. Gearing was "below 10 per cent". There is a proposed interim dividend of 0.5p (nil). Earnings per share stood at 1.8p (nil), and shares firmed ½p to 46p.

Securities lifts payout

THE net asset value at Securities Trust of Scotland, the international income growth trust, climbed to 73.9p (70.7p) at the end of March. Total revenue grew from £17.2 million to £17.7 million. Earnings per share rose to 3.1p (2.9p). The final dividend is increased to 2.08p (1.92p), making an improved total of 3.1p (2.82p) for the year.

OBC bought for £500,000

SECURE Trust Group, the Birmingham financial services company, has acquired OBC Insurance Consultants for £500,000, £100,000 of which will be paid in shares. OBC, which is a private company, has 34 high street offices, had unaudited profits of £16,819 in the six months to end-June 1990. OBC's net liabilities are about £1.51 million.

Property profit halves

A SHARP increase in interest charges has more than halved interim profits at Scottish Metropolitan Property, the property investor and developer. Pre-tax profits fell from £5.55 million to £2.72 million for the six months to February 15. Gross rental income for the period rose 16 per cent to £9.74 million and net proceeds from disposals were £12.6 million. The interest bill rose from £2.54 million to £6.57 million, leaving interim earnings per share at 1.86p compared with 3.97p for the previous first half.

The company's net book value fell by £1.53 million over the period. The interim dividend is maintained at 2.53p.

Deadline nears on Euro share market

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN finance ministers will today be warned that they are close to overrunning the deadline for agreement on the European investment services directive, which aims to extend the single European market to investment in securities.

The warning will come from Luxembourg, holder of the EC presidency, which is concerned that Europe could fail to achieve even an embryonic single market in securities by the end of 1992 if no political agreement is reached in the next two months. Early agreement is necessary due to the delay in parliamentary ratification needed to implement EC decisions.

A high level working group, set up by European finance ministers, is close to reaching a compromise, which according to Jean Guill, the group's president, is now only "a matter of wording". That compromise, however, will fall far short of the original

proposal by the commission. Mr Guill said yesterday: "We have made good progress, but we now must get political progress, otherwise it will be too late for implementation in 1993."

It is expected that the compromise will disappoint those favouring a liberal approach. At present, finance houses in some countries, such as Italy, Spain and Belgium, are forced to trade through their own domestic markets. The compromise envisages a relaxation, under which they will be allowed limited off-market trading.

The issue has proved highly controversial for countries that operate protectionist securities markets. The split is a classic north-south divide, with countries such as Britain, Holland and Germany favouring a liberal approach, against fierce opposition from southern countries, which are concerned about the possible erosion of their local market.

Larne factory to close

GEC-Alsthom will cut 900 jobs

By ROBERT RODWELL

THE cancellation of the British nuclear power programme and of large conventional coal-fired power stations with the privatisation of electricity were blamed yesterday for the cutback of 900 jobs by GEC-Alsthom, the heavy generator company.

The company is to close its factory at Larne, in County Antrim, by the end of this year with the loss of 500 jobs and a further 400 jobs are to go in Rugby, Stafford and at Old Trafford in Manchester.

Douglas Gadd, the chairman, said that with the newly privatised generators and independent power suppliers now favouring smaller combined cycle power plants, there was a much reduced demand for the large heat exchangers manufactured at Larne, where 200 jobs were cut in January last year.

This type of equipment was only required by nuclear and conventional oil and coal-fired plants. Mr Gadd said some work had been diverted to Larne from GEC-Alsthom's French factories but this was insufficient.

Though further substantial redundancies had long been expected, the closure of the Larne factory, which opened in 1957, had "numbed" the harbour town where it was the largest manufacturing employer, said Roy Beggs, the MP for East Antrim. He called upon Richard Needham, the Northern Ireland Office economy minister, and Ulster's Industrial Development Board to redouble their efforts to find new investors.

The minister said his department would work closely with GEC to find an alternative use for the facility and jobs for its employees.

An industry that girdles the earth

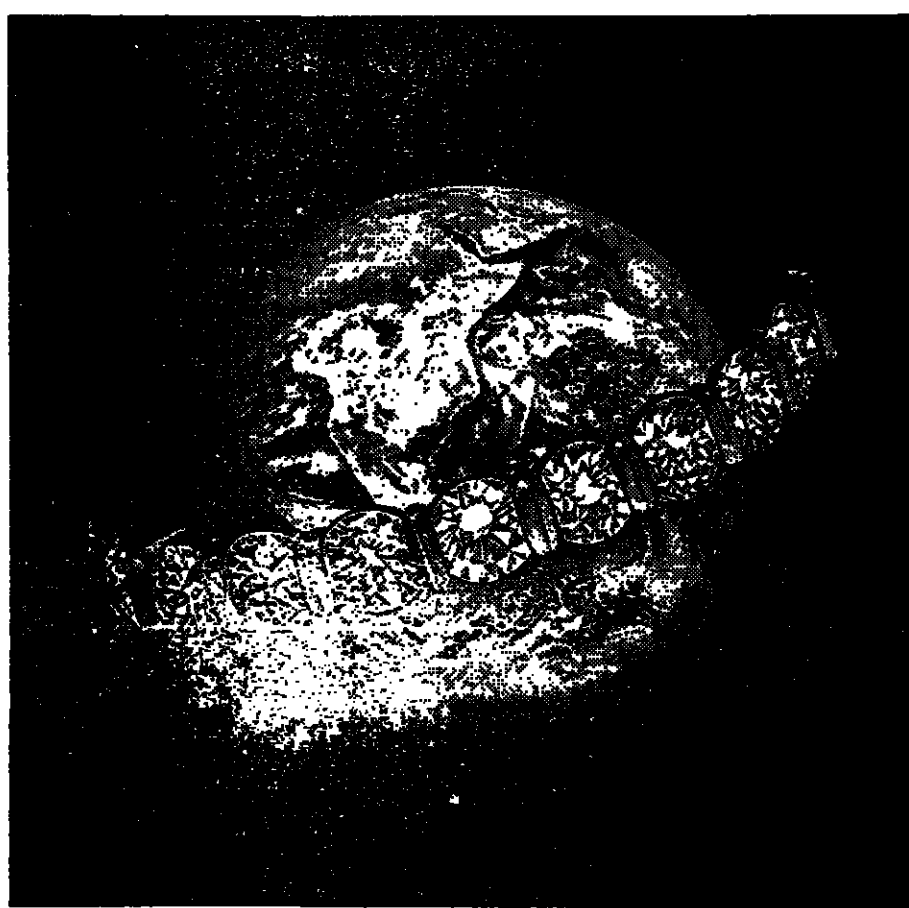
Six points from Julian Ogilvie Thompson's Chairman's Statement for 1990

Soviet Union

The global nature of the diamond industry was once again reinforced by developments in 1990. De Beers Centenary's inaugural year was marked by a five year US\$5 billion sales agreement with Glavalmazoloto of the USSR. This contract with one of the world's largest producers of gem diamonds was further recognition of the benefits of single channel marketing through which the Central Selling Organisation (CSO) has served producers, consumers and the diamond industry as a whole for more than half a century. Centenary's fully secured US\$1 billion advance to Glavalmazoloto illustrates the extent of its financial resources and its ability to hold a large buffer stock of diamonds should the need arise.

Angola

Another development which reinforced the stability of the diamond market was De Beers Centenary's agreement in principle with the Angolan state diamond corporation, Endiama, under which the production of the Cuango River area will be marketed by the CSO. Centenary will lend Endiama US\$50 million at a commercial rate of interest to finance extensions to



the Cuango mining area. The first diamond shipments have already been received in London.

Diamond sales

After seven years of growth, world retail diamond sales levelled off in 1990. Total sales of rough diamonds for the year amounted to US\$4,167 million, two per cent higher than 1989. Despite the adverse international economic climate, CSO sales at the first three sights in 1991 were satisfactory and the CSO is confident of achieving sales comparable to last year's.

Group earnings

Reflecting the fact that the major part of our earnings nowadays is generated outside South Africa, De Beers Centenary accounted for 81 per cent of attributable earnings and 62 per cent of equity accounted earnings of the combined results. Combined attributable earnings declined by 16 per cent to US\$950 million while equity accounted earnings fell by 17 per cent to US\$1,317 million. Total dividends per linked unit were US 111.3 cents, a marginal increase on 1989.

Sea floor mining

The continuing development by De Beers Marine of sea floor mining technology is evidence of our long-term worldwide commitment to exploration and research. In 1990 some 29,000 carats were recovered by De Beers Marine off Namibia for CDM.

South Africa

Profound political changes have opened the way for South Africa to rejoin the community of nations and there are already signs of the significant benefits it will derive from its re-introduction into the world economy. The new South Africa must achieve and maintain a high rate of economic growth to generate the resources so urgently needed for social investment and to provide meaningful opportunities for all South Africans. De Beers Consolidated Mines has played a leading role in the Private Sector Initiative which has raised R570 million (US\$222 million) over five years for education and housing in black communities.

The full Chairman's Statement is available with the Annual Reports of the two Companies for the year ended 31st December 1990, which have been posted to registered shareholders. Copies may be obtained by writing to the London address below.

De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd

De Beers Centenary AG

De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited (Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa), London Office, 40 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1AJ.
De Beers Centenary AG (Incorporated under the laws of Switzerland), Head Office, Langensandstrasse 27, CH-6000 Lucerne 14, Switzerland.

Thank god (Allah) for investment oil sheikhs' ha against sterling ing should have currency market more important: Downing 5 home truths.

The first is the ERM has la the magnetic at the words "crisis" at least in the tabloid headline second is that the foreign exch partly an illusion constantly cayu which pass ever foreign exchang mense that int flows and cri vention pale int What yesterday' again was that billions and tril have absolutely foreign exchange timed customer million from A push sterling dan then presumabl

Insti man

FINED managers are pe figures in the City this 5. Duveney of companies queuing at the doors i main investment institu asking for money.

Rights issues are ba Lashout. During the month, City investors witnessed the most f round of equity financ more than four years. Se a day has passed with least one cash call.

The flow of issues little sign of abating. terday alone, five comp launched share issues u up to more than £60 m while this week's total £300 million.

Reports in the City at the Bank of England's mal calendar for rights: until the end of May, all the Bank refuses to comp. Initially, fund mar were happy to subscribe issues. Many had near-r levels of liquidity in funds and the lack of market liquidity had left few opportunities to mve.

Now uncase is grow some institutions abou seemingly endless den for finance. Some mar are concerned that comp are using the rise in the market to raise unacc funds, while other see a li ty shortage developing i the rate of issues slows.

Roger Yates, a fund ager at Morgan Grenfell that many of the issue being made by the v companies. "We are s blank cheques in some c he said. "We are less happy about acceptin from companies which d need the money, or want unstated acquisitions."

Mr Yates prefers to su

TH

Edwardes joi the lights

LIKE any good City tro shooter, Sir Michael Edw finds the lure of a new e age hard to resist. Bu South African-born entr near has surprised the Ci the same by joining the t of Porth Group, better k for its Christmas decora than for labour dispute multi-million pound bid: Michael, aged 60, who t his name as a tough ma at Chloride and British land, and was chief exec of Minorco during the billion bid for Consolc Gold Fields, flew in from cago yesterday wond what all the fuss was abou is a classic chairman of board role which will inv regular and frequent b meetings, and I will be much involved with p decisions," he says. "But on a lot of boards and w not want to overemph my role." Sir Michael, stands 5ft 3ins and was kn as Titchy at school - he on to become a "feroci scrum-half at Rhodes Un sity, Grahamstown - is b ing up a portfolio of dire ships to rival that of Sir J Harvey-Jones, with nu like Charter Consolidat Minorco under his belt. coincidence, yesterday sav appointment of David L Jacob as executive chair of Bute Mining - fresh t an eight-year spell in t erican steel industry. He well known in the Square

De Beers

Home truths from Abu Dhabi

COMMENT

Thank god (or should we say Allah) for the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. The oil sheikhs' half-billion dollar investment in sterling yesterday morning should have reminded the currency markets — and even more importantly the Treasury and Downing Street — of a few home truths.

The first is that membership of the ERM has failed to dissipate the magnetic attraction between the words "crisis" and "sterling". The second is that the alleged depth of the foreign exchange markets is partly an illusion. Economists are constantly saying that the sums which pass every day across the foreign exchange are so immense that international trade flows and central bank intervention pale into insignificance. What yesterday's events showed again was that most of these billions and trillions of dollars have absolutely no impact on foreign exchange rates. If a well-timed customer order of \$500 million from Abu Dhabi could push sterling down by 1 per cent, then presumably a well-timed

central bank intervention by the Bank of England or the Bundesbank can achieve similarly spectacular results.

This leads to home truth number three, the one which may keep the Chancellor and the prime minister awake at night. The reason why sterling fell yesterday was not because the Arabs decided to sell it. Rather, the oil sheikhs sold sterling because it appeared to be on the way down. Since the end of last week, when sterling failed repeatedly to break through DM13, currency speculators all over the world have been showing signs of a change of heart.

After the run on the mark in the wake of the Christian Democrats' election defeat at the weekend, investors in Japan and the Middle East have begun wondering about which other European currencies might be vulnerable to political jitters. Unless next week's local election

results go better than expected for John Major, the answer may soon be obvious.

To make matters worse, the statisticians, industrialists and now even some of the government's own backbenchers on the Treasury and Civil Service Committee keep piling on the economic gloom. Not only is the recession proving much worse than expected, but with the Gulf war and the poll tax slipping into the background, the dismal state of the economy will begin to interact ever more powerfully with the public opinion polls and hence the confidence of the financial markets. Next week, a grim CBI quarterly survey will dominate the headlines the day before the local elections.

When will the Chancellor draw the obvious conclusion? He must continue cutting interest rates

and helping the economy out of recession. If he lets the recession drag on and the public draws the obvious political conclusion, he will win no thanks from investors in sterling.

ICI suffers

The depth of the recession, not just in Britain, is evident from the fortunes of ICI, whose first quarter profits plunged from £414 million to £198 million pre-tax on sales down 11 per cent in volume. Given the odd £20 million from pharmaceutical sales last year, this is a fair reflection of the change in economic conditions, since the first quarter of 1990 was the last of the good times for the chemicals multinational.

The good news is that profits were at least better than most City analysts expected. Spring duly happened but beyond that ICI sees no more evidence in orders and markets than before of any immediate relief. ICI shares, which jumped 20p on the profit figures, duly subsided 15p to 1,075p.

The great disappointment is that the group's long campaign to free itself from Britain's economic cycles, first by expansion in America and on the Continent, then by a determined move into products with higher added value, has come to little. Petrochemicals and fibres were not unexpectedly in loss but the effect chemicals division also continued its sad descent in the second half of 1990, with first quarter profits down from £36 million to just £7 million.

Even pharmaceuticals had a poor start, though management remains confident of higher profits for the year. Of the main businesses, only the splendid

paint division managed to shine against hopeless market conditions in the first quarter.

This disappointment has been reflected in the stock market. ICI's share price relative to the all-share index has fallen near to its all-time depths of 1981, when the dividend was cut. That is unlikely to happen this time. The historical parallel is not, however, without interest. Then, ICI enjoyed a false dawn and profits took longer to recover than expected.

Future quarters should not look so bad by comparison with 1990 because ICI's cycle turned down early. But Sir Denys Henderson, the chairman, rests his hopes of a second-half recovery on forecasts of economic recovery on both sides of the Atlantic. Yet doubts are growing on both the turning points of the recession and the pace of economic recovery.

ICI shares now rest on their 6.8 per cent dividend yield, but would sell at more than 15 times earnings of 70p and are therefore likely to wax and wane with the signs of economic upturn.

Institutions worry that too many rights could be wrong

FUND managers are popular figures in the City this spring. Dozens of companies are queuing at the doors of the main investment institutions, asking for money.

Rights issues are back in fashion. During the past month, City investors have witnessed the most frantic round of equity financing in more than four years. Scarcely a day has passed without at least one cash call.

The flow of issues shows little sign of abating. Yesterday alone, five companies launched share issues adding up to more than £60 million, while this week's total tops £300 million.

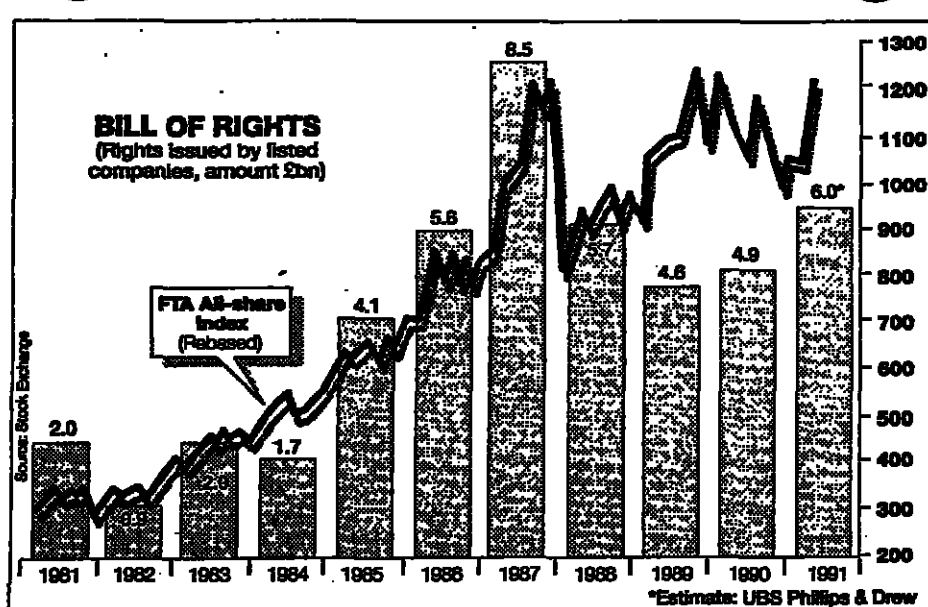
Reports in the City suggest the Bank of England's informal calendar for rights is full until the end of May, although the Bank refuses to comment.

Initially, fund managers were happy to subscribe to the issues. Many had near-record levels of liquidity in their funds and the lack of stock market liquidity had left them few opportunities to invest.

Now unease is growing in some institutions about the seemingly endless demands for finance. Some managers are concerned that companies are using the rise in the stock market to raise unnecessary funds, while others see a liquidity shortage developing unless the rate of issues slows.

Roger Yates, a fund manager at Morgan Grenfell, says that many of the issues are being made by the wrong companies. "We are signing blank cheques in some cases," he said. "We are less than happy about accepting rights from companies which do not need the money, or want it for unstated acquisitions."

Mr Yates prefers to support



companies that need to raise capital to cut debt and improve balance sheets. He said: "The stock market is giving money to those companies which need it least. There are many companies out there that have good businesses struggling to get out, if only they could clear their balance sheets."

Companies have announced issues worth almost £3 billion this year, but there are signs that institutional demand for more equity is weakening. The construction sector, which has spawned a large number of the cash calls, has underperformed the stock market by 10 per cent since the start of March.

UBS Phillips & Drew, the securities house, conservatively forecasts that rights issues will total £6 billion by the end of the year. Mark Brown, the firm's equity strategist, said: "This is the best opportu-

nity companies have had to raise finance in four years. But talking to institutions, you get the feeling they are becoming tired of the issues."

Publicly, the large institutions support the latest round of rights issues. Paddy Linaker, the chairman of M&G Group, said: "We have a responsibility to give companies more capital when they need it."

But most qualify their support on individual issues. "We have turned down one or two when the management has not been up to the mark," Mr Linaker said, "or where the company could raise funds from other sources."

Based on previous experience, the requests for finance could rise far higher than Phillips & Drew's forecast. In 1975 and 1981, the years after previous recessions, companies raised an average of 2.8 per cent of the

market's capitalisation in rights issues. In today's market, this implies companies could ask investors for a massive £18 billion.

Institutions do not have the resources to meet this demand. Most have heavy commitments to the government's privatisation programme. These include instalment payments on the water and electricity distribution companies later this year and the sale of the Scottish electricity companies and the minority stake in BT. The new gilt issues also need funding.

Mr Yates believes institutional liquidity could come under pressure in the near future. "If the same amount is raised again in rights issues, there will be a high level of concern among institutions," he said. "Everybody wants our money and there is a limit."

NEIL BENNETT
Banking Correspondent

Lovell's urban wasteland

TEMPUS

BETWEEN Monday and Wednesday, the share price of YJ Lovell, the construction group, fell more than 10 per cent, a clear indication that this was one rights issue the stock market saw coming.

But few can have foreseen the scale of the horror that accompanied the call for £31 million. Most of the issue proceeds appear to have been lost already, with the company indicating that its September year-end results could be accompanied by provisions of up to £26 million.

Last year's unsuccessful bid for Higgs and Hill alone cost Lovell £6 million.

Lovell's share price yesterday said it all. It fell a further 33p to 145p, well below a theoretical ex-rights price of 164p. Of all the recent property and construction issues, this looks the one to leave with the underwriters.

Effectively, the Lovell board is asking for its ball back, having made two big mistakes. The first was the bid for Higgs and Hill, the second was the disastrous move into urban renewal, which now looks like costing the company more than £30 million in provisions, despite last year's decision to close the business.

With the final size of the total provisions still in doubt, estimating Lovell's gearing is

not easy. But assuming the group ultimately writes about £20 million off net assets, on-balance sheet borrowings would be about £50 million, compared with net assets of about £100 million. A further £40 million of off-balance sheet debt would lift total gearing to about 90 per cent. Avoid.

Etam

IT is a measure of the depth of the recession that the slump in Etam's pre-tax profits from £17.5 million to £8.5 million in the year to January 26 was seen as a more than creditable performance by the City yesterday. The shares rose 3p to 163p.

Admittedly, the shares have been boosted in recent weeks by the hope of a full bid from Oceana Investment Corporation, which in February approached the Etam board with a view to acquiring 50 per cent but was rejected.

The City had been looking for a pre-tax figure of around £6.5 million and, given the £1.1 million loss at half time, the group has performed tolerably well, even though £827,000 of the profit came

from a change in the depreciation charge.

Sales rose from £181 million to £207 million and earnings per share fell from 16.7p to 7.51p. The final dividend has been maintained at 4.65p, making 5.85p for the year (6.6p).

There was an exceptional item of £1 million relating to the closure of properties and reorganisation costs and an interest charge of £996,000, although by the year-end the bank balance was in credit by £1.3 million. Capital expenditure was reduced from £25.5 million to £8.8 million.

The shares are trading on 17.3 times earnings, assuming pre-tax profits of £10.5 million for the current year. The clothing market will take some time to recover and the bid speculation alone is not a good enough reason to buy the shares at their current level.

N Brown Group

SIR David Alliance spent approaching £2 million topping up his family's stake in N Brown Group to 65 per cent yesterday, a move that re-established Brown as a close company, and will help the

Alliances find the £10.6 million they need to fund their share of the equity placing.

The tax relief will help, but Sir David's commitment should still be seen as a powerful vote of confidence in a company whose particular niche of the mail order market has served it well in the past, but which may find itself under siege shortly from Otto Versand, new owner of Grat-tan, and Redoute, about to acquire Empire Stores.

Like Brown, the continentals concentrate on direct, rather than agency selling, and may attempt to loosen the grip Brown has on the middle-to-older aged clothing market. They will run into stiff competition. Brown's 12 per cent pre-tax increase last year to £14 million and 20 per cent annual compound growth over the past three years, reflects good management and a resilient business, while the £16.4 million funding will pay for its new depot, and puffing down from 119 to 55 per cent.

Centralised, computerised handling will help cost controls and thrust profits towards £16.5 million this year, for a well-merited earnings multiple of 13.4 at 228p. Holders should follow Sir David and take up their new share entitlement.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Edwardes joins the lights

LIKE any good City trouble-shooter, Sir Michael Edwardes finds the lure of a new challenge hard to resist. But the South African-born entrepreneur has surprised the City all the same by joining the board of Porth Group, better known for its Christmas decorations than for labour disputes or multi-million pound bids. Sir Michael, aged 60, who made his name as a tough manager at Chloride and British Leyland, and was chief executive of Minoro during the £2.9 billion bid for Consolidated Gold Fields, flew in from Chicago yesterday wondering what all the fuss was about. "It is a classic chairman of the board role which will involve regular and frequent board meetings, and I will be very much involved with policy decisions," he says. "But I sit on a lot of boards and would not want to overemphasise my role." Sir Michael, who stands 5ft 3ins and was known as Tichy at school — he went on to become a "ferocious" scrum-half at Rhodes University, Grahamstown — is building up a portfolio of directorships to rival that of Sir John Harvey-Jones, with names like Charter Consolidated and Minoro under his belt. By Minoro under his belt, by coincidence, yesterday saw the appointment of David Lloyd-Jacob as executive chairman of Butte Mining — a fresh from an eight-year spell in the American steel industry. He was well known in the Square Mile

before that... as managing director of ConsGold.

SIGN in a fashion designer's office in London: "If at first you don't succeed — imitate."

Railrodded

WHEN a large team of City brokers and analysts take a day off to visit the Champagne region of France, anything can happen. But the booby prize for the most recent of such trips — in which 135 City types and journalists crossed the Channel on Wednesday — goes to Simon Rothschild of College Hill Associates, the City PR firm that organised the trip. Rothschild ended up paying £42 for a return ticket from Victoria to Gatwick instead of the usual £14, after a bizarre sequence of events. After forgetting to buy a ticket in Victoria, he was forced to buy one at an inflated price on the train — only to misplace it on arriving in France. Returning to Gatwick, he paid £14 for a pair of single tickets, only to

find the "lost" ticket about five minutes before reaching Victoria. A kindly BR inspector told him he could reclaim the cost of the single ticket... if he went back to Gatwick.

IN SYDNEY, the problems of language are to be adjudicated by an industrial tribunal after the dismissal of a "new Australian" from his job in a delicatessen. The young man, not long out of Yugoslavia, was asked by a customer if he had any stuffed cabbage. The young man replied: "Get stuffed at the next counter." The customer complained — and the man was dismissed.

All in a name

THE British launch today of *American Psycho*, the latest gruesome offering from Bret Easton Ellis, the controversial New York author, may raise a few sniggers in the Square Mile. It will only add to the problems of Barry Bateman, managing director of Fidelity Investment Services — and newly appointed chairman of the Unit Trust Association — who is often forced to point out that he is related neither to Paul Bateman, chief executive of Save & Prosper, nor indeed to Mike Bateman, formerly an executive director of Allied Dunbar and now an assistant general manager with MGM Assurance. As fate would have it, the hero — if that is the right word — of the novel is a certain Patrick Bateman, a stockbroker with a fictitious Wall Street firm, who mixes a taste for designer clothes with a fetish for torturing victims in

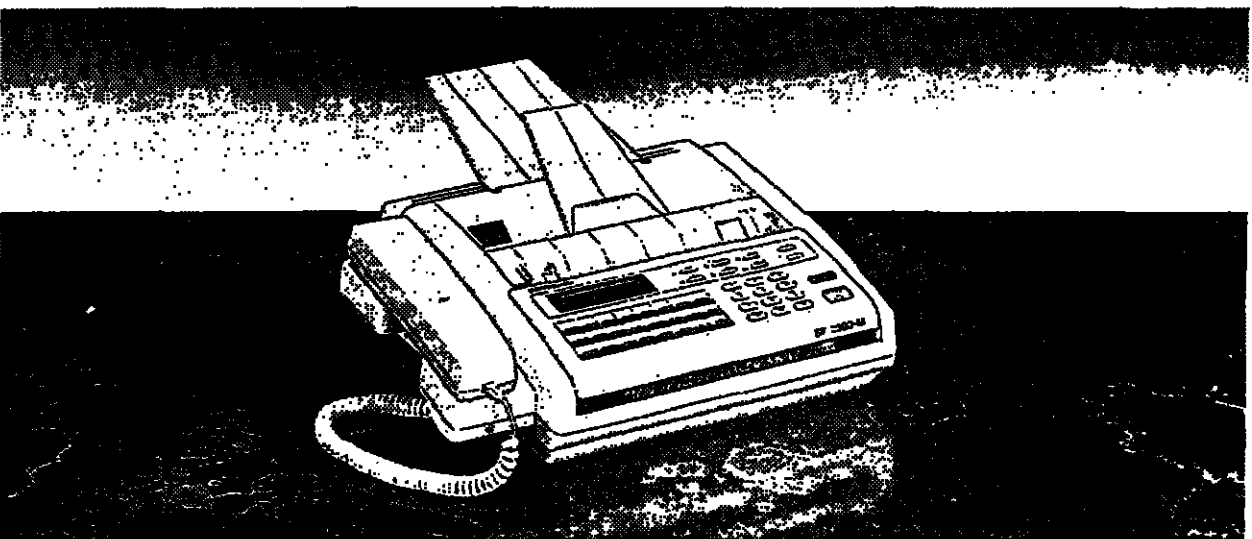
the most horrible way. The book is said to be so revolting that the original American publishers sent Ellis packing with a \$300,000 royalties cheque just days before it was due to be released. It is also curious that the name of the Wall Street firm in his book is Pierce & Pierce — exactly the same as that chosen by Tom Woolfe as Sherman McCoy's workplace in *The Bonfire of the Vanities*.

Grave places

THE £130 million hostile takeover bid by Southend Properties for Frogmore Estates has cast more light on the intricacies of City deals. Not only was Southend code-named "Greyhound" during the bid preparations — a reference to the greyhound stadium owned by Southend — but Frogmore was referred to only as "Windsor". Frogmore is, of course, the name of the royal mausoleum at Windsor built by Queen Victoria for Prince Albert, and final resting place of many of the royal family. As fate would have it, the Southend Property head offices in Finchley, north London, are built on the site of an old funeral parlour — the sort of scenario that Stephen King, the American novelist, so much enjoys.

GRAFFITO on a Swiss Cottage hoarding: "Spring is when a boy man sees a girl man and finally realises what he's been praying for."

JON ASHWORTH



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By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

Acorn profits slide

L&L shares up

tion, the New Orleans energy group that has a listing in London, announced first quarter pre-tax profits of \$13.7 million (\$21.8 million) due to a decline in oil production and natural gas prices.

European cartel investigations are among the most difficult aspects of European competition policy, and can last up to two years due to legal complexities.

against ICI which was found guilty of operating an illegal

While most countries operate national cartel investigations, the increasing wave of European takeovers and mergers has resulted in a strong need to conduct such enquiries on a European level.



By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday that Botswana had continued to sell its output through the CSO, despite the expiry of the previous three-year contract at the end of December last year.

the recession took their toll on profits at Plastiseal, the USM-quoted maker and installer of windows and doors.

Pre-tax profits dived 76 percent to \$310,000 in the year to end-January. Turnover

SECURITIES _____

27	8.5	1.2	12.5	110	85	Shuttle Gang	80	80	9.5	5.5	-	Dubin	1,108.1-1,078
28	-	-	-	9	8	TDS Crows	8	10	-	-	-	Franki	2,960-2,960.40
98	10.7	11.1	7.2	42	21	TLS Range	41	43	2.4	6.7	8.4	Lisbon	253.45-255.18
7	-	-	-	240	198	THO Advert	237	240	8.4	3.5	11.5	McDonald	181.80-182.85
17	-	-	-	217	172	TV ads	185	190	16.0	8.5	6.1	Milan	2180.05-2188.02
6	-	-	3.5	31	92	Turbo	28	36	-	-	13.8	-	-

22	257	6	-1	12.9	6.1	7.8	33	38	Twelve Hedges	47	52	-	-	-	3.9
23	257	6	-1	-	-	2.7	21	10	Tellus	18	18	-	0.7	4.1	-
24	178	-	-	3.3	1.8	84.4	6	14	Twelve Hedges	14	24	-	-	6.3	-
25	113	-	-	3.8	3.5	7.3	21	22	Tower	29	36	-	3.8	12.9	7.7
26	14	-	-	-	-	-	340	248	U.S. Friendly	335	345	-	13.7	4.0	-

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 12 Finance
 Flotation: Midland 5 Europe 4.50 10

258	17	17	-	-	-	30	36	-	-	18.7	Local Authority Depo:	11%
259	17	17	-	8.0	2.4	52	36	4%	0.8	20.0	2.0	11%
260	17	17	-	6.7	17.2	53	33	4%	0.7	17.2	4.2	11%
261	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
262	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
263	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
264	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
265	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
266	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
267	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
268	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
269	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
270	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
271	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
272	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
273	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
274	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
275	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
276	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
277	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
278	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
279	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
280	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
281	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
282	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
283	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
284	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
285	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
286	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
287	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
288	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
289	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
290	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
291	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
292	17	17	-	15.0	5.8	54	34	7%	1.3	4.3	10.8	11%
293	17	17	-	15.0</								

52	+3	4.6	7.8	6.7
14	-	-	-	-
22	-4	-	-	-3.9
5	-	-	-	-
54	-	5.1	5.8	6.4
50	-	4.2	4.2	4.2

● Ex dividend ■ Ex all b Forecast dividend ▲ Internm

94	93	92	91	90	89	88	87	86	85	84	83	82	81	80	79	78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71	70	69	68	67	66	65	64	63	62	61	60	59	58	57	56	55	54	53	52	51	50	49	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10	-11	-12	-13	-14	-15	-16	-17	-18	-19	-20	-21	-22	-23	-24	-25	-26	-27	-28	-29	-30	-31	-32	-33	-34	-35	-36	-37	-38	-39	-40	-41	-42	-43	-44	-45	-46	-47	-48	-49	-50	-51	-52	-53	-54	-55	-56	-57	-58	-59	-60	-61	-62	-63	-64	-65	-66	-67	-68	-69	-70	-71	-72	-73	-74	-75	-76	-77	-78	-79	-80	-81	-82	-83	-84	-85	-86	-87	-88	-89	-90	-91	-92	-93	-94	-95	-96	-97	-98	-99	-100	-101	-102	-103	-104	-105	-106	-107	-108	-109	-110	-111	-112	-113	-114	-115	-116	-117	-118	-119	-120	-121	-122	-123	-124	-125	-126	-127	-128	-129	-130	-131	-132	-133	-134	-135	-136	-137	-138	-139	-140	-141	-142	-143	-144	-145	-146	-147	-148	-149	-150	-151	-152	-153	-154	-155	-156	-157	-158	-159	-160	-161	-162	-163	-164	-165	-166	-167	-168	-169	-170	-171	-172	-173	-174	-175	-176	-177	-178	-179	-180	-181	-182	-183	-184	-185	-186	-187	-188	-189	-190	-191	-192	-193	-194	-195	-196	-197	-198	-199	-200	-201	-202	-203	-204	-205	-206	-207	-208	-209	-210	-211	-212	-213	-214	-215	-216	-217	-218	-219	-220	-221	-222	-223	-224	-225	-226	-227	-228	-229	-230	-231	-232	-233	-234	-235	-236	-237	-238	-239	-240	-241	-242	-243	-244	-245	-246	-247	-248	-249	-250	-251	-252	-253	-254	-255	-256	-257	-258	-259	-260	-261	-262	-263	-264	-265	-266	-267	-268	-269	-270	-271	-272	-273	-274	-275	-276	-277	-278	-279	-280	-281	-282	-283	-284	-285	-286	-287	-288	-289	-290	-291	-292	-293	-294	-295	-296	-297	-298	-299	-300	-301	-302	-303	-304	-305	-306	-307	-308	-309	-310	-311	-312	-313	-314	-315	-316	-317	-318	-319	-320	-321	-322	-323	-324	-325	-326	-327	-328	-329	-330	-331	-332	-333	-334	-335	-336	-337	-338	-339	-340	-341	-342	-343	-344	-345	-346	-347	-348	-349	-350	-351	-352	-353	-354	-355	-356	-357	-358	-359	-360	-361	-362	-363	-364	-365	-366	-367	-368	-369	-370	-371	-372	-373	-374	-375	-376	-377	-378	-379	-380	-381	-382	-383	-384	-385	-386	-387	-388	-389	-390	-391	-392	-393	-394	-395	-396	-397	-398	-399	-400	-401	-402	-403	-404	-405	-406	-407	-408	-409	-410	-411	-412	-413	-414	-415	-416	-417	-418	-419	-420	-421	-422	-423	-424	-425	-426	-427	-428	-429	-430	-431	-432	-433	-434	-435	-436	-437	-438	-439	-440	-441	-442	-44
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**By OUR EUROPEAN
BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT**

NORSK Hydco Norway

Egil Myklebust, president of Norsk Hydro, said in a statement yesterday: "Our operating income has held up well in spite of weak market conditions in important production areas. We see now that efforts made during the last few years towards cutting costs and increasing productivity have

Norsk Hydro has four principal business divisions: agricultural products, including fertiliser, oil and gas, light metal and petrochemicals.

By OUR CITY STAFF

earnings per share from 6.77p to 7.49p, and shareholders will receive a final dividend of 1.75p a share, making a total

Despite acquisitions, gearing is only 8 per cent.

LONDON TELETYPE

[illegible]

Pines put into receivership

Brussels:	5092 70 (+)
General	478 20 (+)
Paris, SAC	

VET

1991	Pace	Gross Yd	1991	Pace	Gross Yd
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[illegible]

1991	Pct	Sum Yr
1991	100	100
1992	100	100
1993	100	100
1994	100	100
1995	100	100
1996	100	100
1997	100	100
1998	100	100
1999	100	100
2000	100	100
2001	100	100
2002	100	100
2003	100	100
2004	100	100
2005	100	100
2006	100	100
2007	100	100
2008	100	100
2009	100	100
2010	100	100
2011	100	100
2012	100	100
2013	100	100
2014	100	100
2015	100	100
2016	100	100
2017	100	100
2018	100	100
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2020	100	100
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2023	100	100
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2031	100	100
2032	100	100
2033	100	100
2034	100	100
2035	100	100
2036	100	100
2037	100	100
2038	100	100
2039	100	100
2040	100	100
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2042	100	100
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2044	100	100
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2067	100	100
2068	100	100
2069	100	100
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2071	100	100
2072	100	100
2073	100	100
2074	100	100
2075	100	100
2076	100	100
2077	100	100
2078	100	100
2079	100	100
2080	100	100
2081	100	100
2082	100	100
2083	100	100
2084	100	100
2085	100	100
2086	100	100
2087	100	100
2088	100	100
2089	100	100
2090	100	100
2091	100	100
2092	100	100
2093	100	100
2094	100	100
2095	100	100
2096	100	100
2097	100	100
2098	100	100
2099	100	100
2100	100	100

Exchange index compared with 1995 was down at 90.8

[illegible]

INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS

[illegible]

day's range 90.6-90.91

FUTURE RATES		DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
1.9185-1.9171	1.9171	Ireland	1.9220-1.9225
1.9195-1.9178	1.9178	Singapore	1.7178-1.7177
0.9434-0.9425	0.9425	Australia	1.7800-1.7810
0.9438-0.9427	0.9427	Malaysia	1.2674-1.2686
1.00-0.01	1.00	India	1.1029-1.1030
1.0575-1.0573	1.0573	Norway	0.2520-0.2520
1.01-0.02	1.01	Sweden	0.8275-0.8325
1.01-0.01	1.01	Denmark	6.7000-6.7100
1.01-0.01	1.01	W Germany	1.7320-1.7410
1.01-0.01	1.01	Switzerland	1.4700-1.4710
1.01-0.01	1.01	France	1.1029-1.1030
1.01-0.01	1.01	Japan	0.2520-0.2520
1.01-0.01	1.01	Belgium (Dom)	6.7000-6.7100
1.01-0.01	1.01	Hong Kong	1.3125-1.3200
1.01-0.01	1.01	China	157.50-159.00
1.01-0.01	1.01	Spain	108.00-108.10
1.01-0.01	1.01	Algeria	12.30-12.35

Report Period: Financials, Make-up day: Mar 26, 1991. Agreed rates: 13.25%,

DETAILS

LONDON OIL REPORTS (GHS/L) - London 8.00pm			
Showing any market movement events, the oil market was			
continued to maintain its position			
CRUDE OILS (Brent/Port)			
Brent Physical	19.00	-0.05	
Brent 15 day (May)	19.05	-0.05	
Brent 15 day (Jun)	19.45	-0.06	
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	21.25	-0.05	
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	20.50	-0.15	
PRODUCTS (Brent/Balt SMT)			
Spot Ofc NW Europe (prompt delivery)			
Gasoline Gals. 15	Bkt 241 (N)	Offer: 245 (N)	
Premium Gals. 15	185 (N)	188 (N)	
Crackd EEO		31 (N)	
Non EEO 1H Jun	179 (N)	-	
Non EEO 1H Jul	177 (N)	-	
5.5 Pct Fuel	68 (N)	68 (N)	
Naphthalene	207 (N)	210 (N)	
FUTURES			
OAS OIL			
May	163.00-62.50	Sept	177.25 5LR
Jul	176.25 5LR	Oct	178.25-79.50
Aug	175.25 5LR	Nov	177.75-78.50
Jul	175.50		Vol: 5357
BRENTE			
May	19.75-18.95	Jul	19.25-18.15
Jun	19.40-18.45		Vol: n/a
OILFIELD			
Oil Field Freight Rates Dry Cargo (Rt/ton)			
Apr 91	High: 1445	Low: 1258	Closes: 1259
May 91	1655	1802	1818
Jun 91	1655	1795	1829
Jul 91	1355	2357	1970
Vol: 875 lots		Open Interest: 2908	
Dry Cargo index 1650 -2			
CURRENCY EXCHANGE			
1485L-1492L	Random Walk	SP 500 INDEX	
1485L-1492L	Vol: 69875	(Bm prices)	
1485L-1492L	135075	Bid	Offer
1167-1168.0L		May	151.40 152.00
5070-5080		Jun	151.10 152.00
1370L-1370.0L		Jul	151.10 152.00
6050L-6060.0L	687100	Aug	151.10 152.00

YET

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Liberty's profits decline

A JUMP in interest charges and fewer tourists in London were largely to blame for a slight decline in profits at Liberty, the retail group with the flagship store in Regent Street. Pre-tax profits slipped from £7.42 million to £7.23 million in the year to February 2, on sales ahead from £85.2 million to £92.5 million.

Increased capital expenditure and higher stocks were largely responsible for a jump in interest payments from £475,000 to £1.23 million.

Gearing stood at about 22 per cent, against 13 per cent last time. The final dividend is raised to 5.2p (4.55p), making 6.9p (5.95p).

Earnings per share eased to 26.13p (26.32p). Harry Webb, the chairman, said the extremely difficult conditions of the last quarter of last year have continued into this year, although "the steps to contain operational costs and improve stock management have been put in place".

He said: "Trading in the current year will reflect one of the most difficult economic environments in the past decade." The shares gained 10p to 515p.

Piries put into receivership

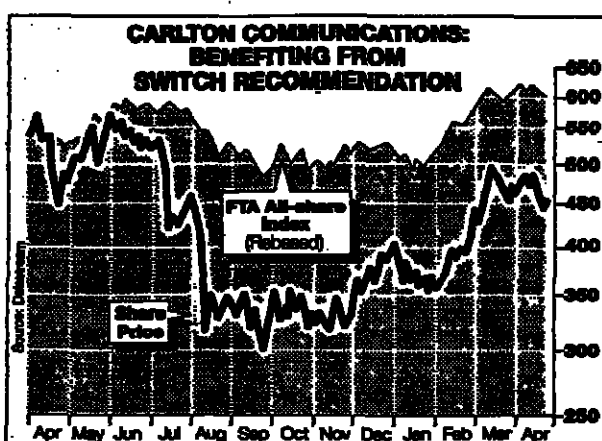
Piries Place, a subsidiary of the heavily indebted Raglan Property Trust, has been put into receivership by Security Pacific. The shares fell a further 1/2p on the news to 2 1/2p. Raglan said the Piries Place development, based in Horsham, West Sussex, had been virtually completed.

MAJOR INDICES

New York:	
Dow Jones	2942.82 (-5.89p)
S&P Composite	381.86 (-1.10p)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	28038.86 (-291.35)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	3594.38 (-10.91)
FT-SE 100	1122.55 (+3.37)
Amsterdam:	
CBS Tendency	96.0 (+0.5)
Sydney: AO	Closed
Frankfurt DAX	1820.45 (+10.72)
Brussels:	
General	5892.70 (+14.72)
Paris: CAC	4793.20 (-0.11)
Zurich: S&K Gen	554.2 (-1.5)
London:	
FT-A All Share	1202.36 (-3.38)
FT-500	1327.22 (-3.58)
FT Gold Mines	1462.2 (+0.7)
FT Fixed Interest	94.18 (-0.13)
FT Govt Secs	85.08 (-0.19)
Bargains	272.10
SEAQ Volume	463.5m
USM (Outstream)	137.06 (+0.22)

*Denotes latest trading price

Water package slides by £60 as investors unwind



Carlton Communications' share price fell 60p to 440p on May 24, after a profit warning that profits in the first six months are likely to fall short of the £146 million made last time. The shares dropped 6p to 612p.

Rank Organisation fell a further 8p to 719p in response to a profit downgrade from Hoare Govett, the broker, which is recommending its clients to switch to Carlton Communications, the film and video services group, up 11p to 459p. Trading has been difficult at Carlton with the interim figures next month expected to show pre-tax profits falling from £64 million to £50 million. But the group still has more than £100 million in the bank.

Wickes, the builders' merchant and DIY group, eased 2p to 57p after announcing a first-quarter trading loss. Asda firmed 1p to 122p with dealers eagerly awaiting the details of the group's meeting with a number of brokers.

Geest rose 28p to 347p after a presentation arranged by Citicorp, the broker. Banana prices are expected to rise as supplies are hit by the earthquake that struck Costa Rica and Panama this week. Geest obtains its supplies from the Windward Islands.

Euro Disney fell sharply during early trading on reports that the completion of its leisure complex on the outskirts of Paris may be delayed by a dispute between two contractors. The shares finished 17p cheaper at £11.53.

British Steel eased 1p to 132p in the wake of this week's savage downgrade by Smith New Court, the broker, which is now forecasting a loss of £50 million for next year against its previous estimate of a profit of £145 million. But the company's own broker, UBS Phillips & Drew, continues to be optimistic and is looking for pre-tax profits of £100 million and a total dividend of 9p, giving a yield of 9 per cent.

P&D says that British Steel will be "one of the great stocks" of the 1990s. The steady stream of companies asking shareholders for more funds continued.

Nikkei ends easier

Tokyo SHARES closed easier, with only index-linked buying by arbitrageurs providing some support. The Nikkei index fell 291.35 points, or 1.11 per cent, to 28,038.86, with 380 million shares traded, against Wednesday's 350 million.

The market was affected by a lack of fresh factors and trading centred on clearing positions before the Golden Week holidays next week.

Falls were led by the banking, non-life insurance, banking, railway/bus, electrical, pharmaceuticals, construction, retail, communications and trading houses sectors.

Frankfurt - A slightly improving outlook on east Germany and eastern Europe helped to push shares 1 per cent higher. The Dax index closed 16.72 up at 1,620.45.

Hong Kong - Blue chips, which dived on Monday and jumped on Wednesday, limped to a slightly weaker finish in thin, sluggish dealings. The Hang Seng index eased 10.91 to 3,594.38. (Reuters)

WORLD MARKETS

Shares closed easier, with only index-linked buying by arbitrageurs providing some support. The Nikkei index fell 291.35 points, or 1.11 per cent, to 28,038.86, with 380 million shares traded, against Wednesday's 350 million.

The market was affected by a lack of fresh factors and trading centred on clearing positions before the Golden Week holidays next week.

Falls were led by the banking, non-life insurance, banking, railway/bus, electrical, pharmaceuticals, construction, retail, communications and trading houses sectors.

Frankfurt - A slightly improving outlook on east Germany and eastern Europe helped to push shares 1 per cent higher. The Dax index closed 16.72 up at 1,620.45.

Hong Kong - Blue chips, which dived on Monday and jumped on Wednesday, limped to a slightly weaker finish in thin, sluggish dealings. The Hang Seng index eased 10.91 to 3,594.38. (Reuters)

WALL STREET

New York SHARES were under pressure in mid-morning but blue chips had partly recovered from opening falls. The Dow Jones industrial average was 24.26 down to 2,925.25 at 10.45am, having been as low as 2,915. Analysts said that the market was affected by the uncertainty about interest rates. Jim Schroeder, a market analyst at MMS International, said: "We don't have a definitive market direction." (Reuters)

Apr 25	Apr 24	Apr 23	Apr 22	Apr 21
Apr 25	Apr 24	Apr 23	Apr 22	Apr 21

Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2

RECENT ISSUES

Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2

RIGHTS ISSUES

Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Alcoa	51	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2


YET AGAIN, CONSISTENCY HAS ITS AWARDS



1991

THE QUEENS AWARDS FOR
TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT 1991

GEC ALTHOM Transmission and Distribution Projects. High voltage liquid cooled thyristor valve.



1991

THE QUEENS AWARDS FOR
TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT 1991

GPT Payphone Systems. Cashless intelligent payphone services.



1991

THE QUEENS AWARDS FOR
TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT 1991

Marconi Communication Systems. (Military Communications Division). Scimitar H high frequency combat radio.

GEC and its subsidiary companies have been consistent winners of awards in virtually every year since the scheme began.

This year two more GEC companies and a joint venture company, GEC ALTHOM, have been honoured with Queen's Awards for Technological Achievement.

Proof again of our innovative and dynamic approach to the needs of the modern global marketplace, our technological expertise and continuing commitment to sustain our competitive edge.



CONSISTENT PERFORMANCE IN A CHANGING WORLD

415 FRIDAY APRIL 26 1991
Fax Number
071-481 9313
071-782 782

IGERIA
I look the National TV and listen from
you and then Africa would be well

ROPEAN
ING DIRECTOR

and overseas... to have
representative... in the
... to be... in the
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Y OF TECHNOLOGY
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Technical Instru

Executive Sean
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1454000 - 2

ESSORSHIP
N LATIN

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code	Price
1	Williams, Hodge	Industrials S-Z	WHD	1.10
2	Kleinwort Benson	Bank, Discount	KWB	1.10
3	Rangers Group	Company, Stores	RNG	1.10
4	Ryl Bk Scot	Bank, Discount	RBS	1.10
5	BICC	Electricals	BIC	1.10
6	Fyfe	Food	FYF	1.10
7	Ranger	Oil, Gas	RNG	1.10
8	Nat Am Bk	Bank, Discount	NAB	1.10
9	Br Visa	Industrials A-D	BV	1.10
10	Redland	Building, Roads	RED	1.10
11	Bee	Electricals	BEE	1.10
12	Unilever	Food	UNI	1.10
13	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals, Plastics	YCH	1.10
14	AS Food	Food	ASF	1.10
15	Kendrick Countrywid	Property	KCW	1.10
16	Blackburn Gp	Newspapers, Pub	BKG	1.10
17	Admiral	Electricals	ADM	1.10
18	Albion Meat	Paper, Print, Adv	ALM	1.10
19	Hickson	Chemicals, Plastics	HIC	1.10
20	Sainsbury J	Food	SBJ	1.10
21	Honda Motor	Motor, Aircraft	HMD	1.10
22	Bearman	Paper, Print, Adv	BEA	1.10
23	Jardine Math	Industrials S-Z	JMD	1.10
24	Parkland A	Textiles	PA	1.10
25	Evered Barton	Building, Roads	EB	1.10
26	Harley & Hanson	Breweries	HHS	1.10
27	RMC G	Building, Roads	RMG	1.10
28	Gordon Eng	Industrials S-Z	GE	1.10
29	Finello C&W	Industrials S-Z	FCW	1.10
30	Lemont	Textiles	LEM	1.10
31	No-Swift	Industrials L-R	NS	1.10
32	Exp Comp Louisiana	Oil, Gas	ECL	1.10
33	Quicks Group	Motor, Aircraft	QUG	1.10
34	Buro Leisure	Leisure	BL	1.10
35	Swire Pacific A	Industrials S-Z	SPA	1.10
36	Shell	Oil, Gas	S	1.10
37	Bates Hunter	Electricals	BH	1.10
38	Indefatig H	Industrials S-Z	IHD	1.10
39	THORN EMI	Electricals	TE	1.10
40	Tarmac	Building, Roads	T	1.10
41	Wooloil	Industrials S-Z	WO	1.10
42	AB Elect	Electricals	ABE	1.10
43	Thos & Lyle	Food	T&L	1.10
44	Renishaw	Industrials L-R	R	1.10
45	Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	TN	1.10

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Miss Valerie Hooper, of Taunton, Somerset.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
SHORTS (Under Five Years)						
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS						
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
OVER FIFTEEN YEARS						
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
UNDATED						
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
INDEX-LINKED						
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1991	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares remain sombre

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 15. Dealings end today. Contango day April 29. Settlement day May 7.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous days' close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1991	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
BREWERIES						
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
BUILDING, ROADS						
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
ELECTRICITY						
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
FINANCE, LAND						
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
FINANCIAL TRUSTS						
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
FOODS						
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
6	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
7	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
8	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
9	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
10	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
DRAPERY, STORES						
1	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
2	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
3	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
4	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%
5	100.00	99.50	100.00	100.00	0.50	0.5%

Arnold and others
Westminster Bank
Before Lord Keith
Lord Goff, Lord
Auld, Lord Hope
Lord Carswell and Lord
Toulson, April 23
[Speeches April 23]
There might be an
instance where
circumstances were
such as to make it
materially relevant to
determination of a
value in the early
stage, whether or not
was specifically
evidenced and such facts
could not have been
proved by reason
of a change in the
House of Lords
dismissing an appeal
defendants. National
Trust Bank plc (as
plaintiff) v. National
Trust Bank plc (as
defendants) [1990] 1
All E.R. 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 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2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255,

Urban revolution in full bloom after 25 years of growth

Milton Keynes hopes it will be allowed to assume formally city status later this year, David Young writes in a special report

An estimated 20 million daffodils have just bloomed in Milton Keynes, but there is no sign that they have inspired any poetry about the new city, which in 25 years has sprung from the soil in north Buckinghamshire.

Instead, the praise that has been heaped on the city comes from the companies which have moved there, the planners who have seen their dreams materialise, and the people who live there.

Official recognition of the success of the project is expected to come later this year, when the Queen formally inaugurates the new ecumenical church there and, some speculate, will announce that Milton Keynes can, at last, formally call itself a "city".

At present the term city is used, but it has no official status. Royal recognition would be a fitting end to the Milton Keynes Development Corporation, which is to disappear in 11 months.

The running of the city will then pass into the hands of the Commission for New Towns and the local Milton Keynes borough council, with matters such as libraries, education and highways being run, as at present, by Buckinghamshire county council.

The passing of the development corporation will be seen by most with considerable sadness. Its driving force has enabled the city to take shape in a short time, and its determination to stick rigidly to the original ideals and plans has been the reason Milton Keynes has emerged as such a successful entity.

However, there are some vital elements missing in Milton Keynes that most people would like to see. It does not have a big auditorium for the performing arts. There is no central art gallery or museum - it would be the perfect site for a museum of planning, tracing the development of the new towns and garden city movement - and it does not have a full-pitch sports stadium.

The omission of such a stadium is of special concern to Frank Henshaw, the Milton Keynes Development Corporation's general manager. He is a keen football enthusiast and he misses not having a local football league team to support in the city's stadium.

"Perhaps our successor will rectify that, but on the whole there is nothing really missing from Milton Keynes, although we still have a lot of work to do in our final months," he says.

"1992 has an extra meaning for Milton Keynes. We share with everyone else the European significance of that date, but here it also means the year the government has

"The benefits of a modern infrastructure, spacious layout and attractive landscape, and their effect on the quality of life, are becoming more and more appreciated"

targeted for the completion of the corporation's work.

"Since it was established in 1967 the corporation has been responsible for the growth of Milton Keynes from a collection of small towns and villages to what it is today. No wonder that there are questions on people's minds.

"Whereas the picture of Europe post-1992 is still emerging, I think we can feel more confident about the position of Milton Keynes at that time. During the coming months the corporation will be maintaining the progressive rate of good quality development for which

Milton Keynes is now known world-wide.

"We shall be completing our planning work and securing the remainder of the primary roads and service networks. These activities are crucial to the confidence of the citizens and investors who will continue to find a wide range of opportunities here. They are also essential to fulfilling the Milton Keynes prospectus.

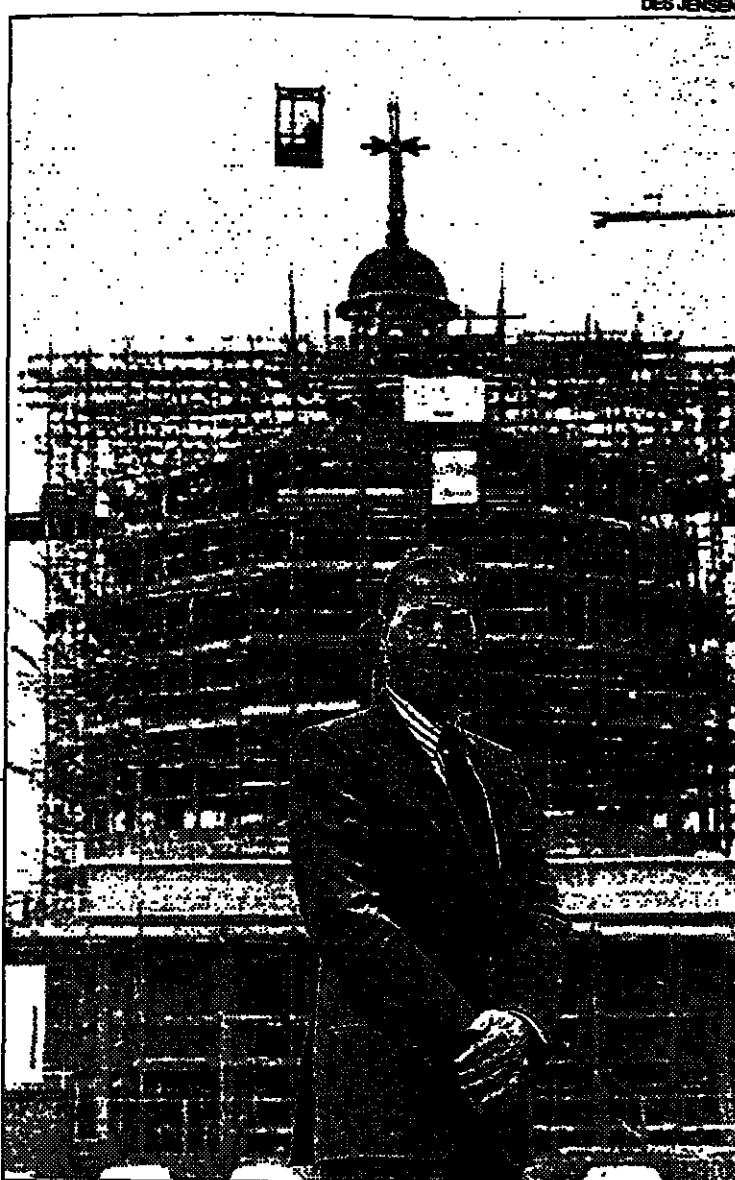
"A very different aspect of the corporation's work in the time ahead will be to find new owners for its rental and shared ownership housing and its community-related assets," Mr Henshaw says, adding that it will be important to see that Milton Keynes's parks, local meeting places and other buildings used for community purposes are managed and maintained properly.

"The completion of all this work by 1992 should place Milton Keynes in a position to face the future with continuing confidence," he says. "Moreover, our predominantly young and growing population will make Milton Keynes one of the few places with an expanding workforce. Along with this growth will come more of the facilities expected in a self-sufficient regional centre of this size.

"Another of Milton Keynes's advantages is the way it responds to an increasing general awareness of the importance of the environment. The benefits of a modern infrastructure, spacious layout and attractive landscape and their effect on the quality of life are becoming more and more appreciated.

"The leading role Milton Keynes is taking in energy conservation and efficiency is making another special contribution to the local scene."

He says the development corporation will maintain these high standards and lay down a framework to facilitate their continuation by the new administrators. "While there are many challenges ahead, 1992 offers every prospect of continuing success for Milton Keynes."



Visionary building: Frank Henshaw in front of the shared church



Easy rider: a cyclist on the Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes

City leaves the drawing board

The last two stages of the successful development master plan are ready

By the time the Milton Keynes Development Corporation passes its portfolios to the local borough council and the Commission for New Towns, the plans for the last of the city's 22,000 acres will be in place (David Young writes).

The last two stages of the city's development will create two areas of housing, shopping, leisure and industry equal in size to many smaller new towns such as Bracknell, and established centres such as Amersham.

The developments, on the eastern and western flanks, will be completed by the new administrators, but they will be part of the original overall plan for the city - a plan which had its critics but which has been rigidly adhered to and is now seen as the most important reason Milton Keynes is emerging as a well-integrated and successful community.

The planning process started in 1967 and the master plan, filling two large volumes, was first seen by the public in 1970 and gave the broad guideline for land use. It still provides the framework for the detailed planning of the city 21 years later.

The preparation of a district plan is the first stage of the process. These plans cover several of the grid squares into which the site is divided.

The last two areas now being planned, East Milton Keynes North and West Milton Keynes, left the final drawing boards in 1989 and several exhibitions were held to allow for comments from the public and alterations by the planners.

The final district plan is now used to prepare structure plans for the individual grid squares and these are used in the development corporation's application for planning permission. Before this stage, however, the corporation consults the Milton Keynes borough council and the Buckinghamshire county council. Locals then have another chance to make representations to the environment department before the plan is approved.

The system has been criticised, but most local authorities and organisations recognise that without the streamlined system of planning Milton Keynes would never have happened. More importantly, the cohesive structure of the city would have been tampered with at an early stage.

The development plan has been seen as sacrosanct and the environment department will receive six more planning applications, so that by the time the development corporation bows out, all the plans will have been approved.

THE FACTS

- Ten per cent of Milton Keynes residents are aged between 25 and 29, compared with 8 per cent nationally
- Twelve per cent of the city's population is aged over 60. The national figure is 21 per cent
- Seventy per cent of households have cars, compared with the national average of 63 per cent
- Of those working, 66 per cent stay within the city boundaries. The ring road system means 25 per cent can get to work in under ten minutes, and 75 per cent in under 30 minutes
- About 25,000 people travel into Milton Keynes every day to work; 19,600 leave the city to go to their jobs
- Fifty per cent of people in Milton Keynes have joined local clubs and organisations and 9 per cent belong to a voluntary work group
- About 65 per cent of residents are buying their homes; another 7 per cent are buying through shared ownership schemes

STILL CRAWLING TO THE BOSS?

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MOVE TO MILTON KEYNES



Pupils at the Milton Keynes school get a taste of the Japanese company in Milton Keynes was a national bidding battle

Tr

Many of the companies have moved to Milton Keynes, but several have tripped over the resulting in a big demand for trained staff.

The government is investing in training and councils has resulted in which could have been a Milton Keynes.

While many TECs throughout the country are struggling to for the unemployed, Milton Keynes and north Bucks to concentrate on training people up the employment thus creating jobs for the TEC is chaired by Daniel, the vice-chancellor of Open University, which is employer in Milton Keynes, recognising that the city is a to the recession, the TEC redundancy task force employers and employees redundancy and recruitment a hotline (0908 322488) to deal with redundancy issues.

Michael Hind, the chair of the TEC, says: "The provides a co-ordinated response to the challenges at individual level. Counselling will be those affected, with a coherent approach to retraining and re-employment, and a coherent approach to the harmful impacts of unemployment."

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Pupils at the Milton Keynes Japanese boarding school get a taste of excellence in a nutrition lesson. With the highest concentration of Japanese companies in Britain outside London, Milton Keynes was well placed when international bidding began to house the Gyozei

International School, the largest Japanese boarding school in Europe. That Milton Keynes was chosen over sites in Paris and Rome is an indication of how favourably the Japanese looked on the Milton Keynes concept and how impressed they were with the city's facilities.

The school, opened in April 1987 on a 16-acre site near Wilton Lake in the east of the city, provides a "traditional" — which now includes coaching in American football and baseball — Japanese education for 500 children of expatriate Japanese working throughout Europe.

Training to taste success

Many of the companies that have moved to Milton Keynes brought their workers with them, and several have tripled their workforce, resulting in a big demand for well-trained staff.

The government initiative in setting up Training and Enterprise Councils has resulted in a system which could have been designed for Milton Keynes.

While many TECs throughout the country are struggling to find a role for the unemployed, the Milton Keynes and north Bucks TEC is able to concentrate on training and moving people up the employment ladder, thus creating jobs for the unemployed.

The TEC is chaired by Dr John Daniel, the vice-chancellor of the Open University, which is the largest employer in Milton Keynes. Recognising that the city is not immune to the recession, the TEC has set up a redundancy task force to help employers and employees deal with redundancy and recruitment, and has a hotline (0908 322488) to help people deal with redundancy and job hunting.

Michael Hind, the chief executive of the TEC, says: "The task force provides a co-ordinated and immediate response to threatened redundancies at individual and company level. Counselling will be offered to those affected, with the aim of leading to retraining and re-employment. Our coherent approach minimises the harmful impacts of cutbacks."

Milton Keynes is geared to improve the prospects of those in work, as well as assist those who are unemployed to find jobs. David Young reports

Local companies will also soon benefit from having a polytechnic nearby, providing a pool of highly qualified people with the skills in demand in the area, as well as carrying out important research for companies in the city.

Construction is about to start on a site near the Open University campus, and the polytechnic will be run under contract by Leicester polytechnic, with back-up from the Open University and the local college of further education.

From September this year, full-time and part-time courses will be available, including a BSc in business information systems, a BSc in software engineering, and HND and HNC in mechanical engineering. The centre will be headed by Professor Peter Thewlis, Hewlett Packard professor of computing science, who has been at Leicester polytechnic since 1982.

He says: "Leicester polytechnic has a tradition of close collaboration with local and national industry. Clearly, with the opening of this exciting new

development in Milton Keynes, we are looking forward to developing closer links with the public and private sector, and we hope these links will be one of the strengths of the new polytechnic."

The college of further education is also about to expand. The move is aimed at providing places for an additional 500 students and is costing an initial £4.2 million, which, with equipment, will rise to £5.3 million once the development on the Woughton campus is complete.

'Companies will soon benefit from a polytechnic on the doorstep, providing highly qualified people'

Including other centres at Wolverton and Bletchley, the college will have facilities for up to 6,000 students. The new building, of 4,450 square metres, will accommodate facilities for management and business studies, and courses in information technology, and health courses.

Roger Watts, the college finance and resources officer, says: "Building should commence in May and hopefully be completed by summer 1993 for a September 1993 intake. There will be lecture theatres and computer

rooms. Everything will be accessible for students with handicaps.

The demand in Milton Keynes for further education is increasing, and that's why the Department of Education and Science has approved funding to expand the college."

In Milton Keynes, the links between industry and education are, however, forged at a much earlier stage. A partnership between secondary schools and businesses has been in operation for more than two years.

The Education Business Partnership is a group of industrialists and teaching representatives which encourages interaction between schools and industry.

Links have been established with more than 100 businesses with the aim of ensuring that school-leavers are better equipped for adult life, and that businesses acquire workers with relevant skills. A course called Insight into Business also gives those going into further education a chance to talk to young managers.

Jane Henshaw, the manager of the business partnership, says: "It is a real partnership, run by equal numbers of people from education and industry, offering a service to both. The majority of our work is done for schools but we promote mutual understanding. If someone is thinking of applying for a degree course in architecture, it makes sense to spend a day or two shadowing someone who does the job."

The moving force behind business

What can Milton Keynes offer to businesses looking for a new site for an office or factory? Cheap loans for building? Enterprise zone allowances? Incentives from the council in the shape of rates holidays and subsidised rents? Development area status?

The answer to all of these is no. Companies that have relocated there have simply weighed up the advantages that the city offers in terms of office space, factory sites, housing and amenities and communications with other business centres.

Another myth — that only established high-tech companies from Japan, or those selling an established central London site, can afford to go to Milton Keynes — can also be dispelled.

The employment structure in the city almost mirrors the national picture in terms of the balance between the manufacturing and service sectors. During 1989-90 the growth of the services sector was higher than that achieved nationally. Jobs increased by 3,700 compared with 2,700 in the previous year. Retail distribution has grown by 1,295 jobs, banking, finance and insurance by 899 jobs, business services by 641 jobs, and postal services and telecommunications by 523 jobs.

Employment in the manufacturing industry has decreased slightly, in line with national trends, although in some areas there has been steady growth. In the motor components business there are now 207 more jobs than a year ago, and as befits a city which in the past 20 years has seen 16 million new trees planted, there are a growing number of jobs in the horticultural industry.

The type of company relocating also follows the national trend. Most are small, employing fewer than 50 people, and the average size of workforces is 22 employees. No single employer dominates the local economy, with the top ten employers each contributing less than 3 per cent of the employment; about 65 per cent of com-

Many companies have relocated to the city despite the lack of subsidies and special incentives

panies employ ten people or fewer.

Every weekday 19,600 commuters leave the city and 25,000 come in, illustrating the good communications the city has with the rest of the Home Counties and the south Midlands.

The type of company now coming to Milton Keynes demonstrates its attractiveness to all sectors. The city is the home of Alps Electric, a Japanese company that has tripled in size since its arrival three years ago and is now the largest employer in the manufacturing sector with more than 600 staff. Alps Electric makes components for the television and video-recorder industry and exports more than half its production from Milton Keynes.

The company, which hopes to supply the Japanese market, has a philosophy of building strong links with the community. Kyoshi Watano, the managing director, says:

"We cannot deny our responsibilities to other companies in the area. We want to give every employee his or her fruits. At the same time we should make every effort to contribute to the community."

Typical of the companies which have moved to Milton Keynes is Page and Moy, the marketing services agency that used to operate in Rickmansworth and Leicester, but came under one roof at a new business centre in Linford Wood in 1989.

Cathy Dodsworth, the administration manager, says: "One of the prime objectives of moving to Milton Keynes was to pull two separate resources together, which we have done successfully. People have various opinions about Milton Keynes but all of our staff like working here. The city is easy to get to and easy to move around in. The building could have been purpose-built for us. It is more or less perfect, and it reflects the high-tech image that our company likes to portray."

Parcelforce, the parcels division of the Royal Mail, chose Milton Keynes for its headquarters. Parcelforce started in the city in 1988 and now has more than 350 staff running the operation, which employs 12,000 nationally. More than 150 of the head office staff have bought homes in the city.



Popular move: Parcelforce headquarters in the city

Eyes on the European prize

THE Milton Keynes exporter of the year award is announced today by the local chamber of commerce and will be presented by Sir Leon Brittan, the EC Commissioner.

The fact that the award attracted so many entries from companies that are major exporters from the new city, and that it is sponsored by Mercedes Benz (UK), one of the city's main importers, reflects the international flavour of the Milton Keynes business community.

The task of the chamber, headed by Philippa Eccles, is to ensure that local companies have a service geared to seeking opportunities within Europe, alerting companies which can exploit them and providing back-up from local experts.

The chamber has a Europe desk looking for openings in the single European market and in Eastern Europe. The desk is sponsored by Ernst and Young, Fennemores and Stoddard and Chartered Bank. It is also supported by NatWest,

the local Training and Enterprise Council, and the local council and development corporation.

The chamber is also supporting a roadshow for telecommunications and electronics companies looking for opportunities in northeast France. Ms Eccles says: "We try to offer the business community services in a form which is quickly and easily available and have had several successful seminars on issues which will affect local companies."

Europe's No.1 adhesive tape manufacturer chose Milton Keynes

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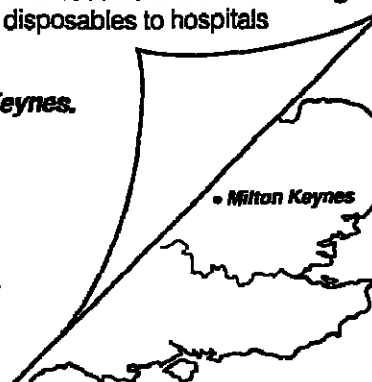
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Suomi to strengthen classic claim

IT is a sign of the times when the Dubai-based ruling family of the United Arab Emirates owns the entire field for a race on a grade one track such as Sandown Park.

It happened once last year when Sheikh Mohammed's pair Razzen and Rejoneo treated us to such an enjoyable spectacle on the Easter course, primarily thanks to the supreme tactical skill of their respective riders Steve Caughan and Pat Eddery.

Today, Sheikh Mohammed will not have everything his own way even though he owns three of the five runners for the Harvester Graduation Stakes since his elder brothers, Sheikh Maktoum and Sheikh

Hamdan, will be represented by Mellaby and Alfares, winners both this spring. Furthermore, it is well known that brotherly rivalry is intense.

Twelve months ago, the corresponding race was won by Samarez, who went on to achieve much greater fame and fortune by winning the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp in the autumn.

Two years earlier, it was won by Kahyasi who did likewise by winning the Derby.

Now, Luca Cumani, who was also responsible for the 1989 Harvester winner Pirate Army, will be riding Suomi, who will be the focus of attention since he has recently sprung to

MANDARIN

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

the forefront of the Derby ante-post market.

Today's race will tell us whether that confidence has been misplaced or whether, as I am led to believe, it has a ring of truth.

Since he is a half-brother to last year's St Leger winner Scurge by Tate Gallery, a full brother to that extremely successful stallion Sadler's Wells, Suomi certainly has a pedigree that would not look out of place in that hallowed winner's circle at Epsom.

The only time that he has

been seen in public so far was when he won his maiden at Newcastle last November by ten lengths in what was a good time considering the state of the ground.

Now information has reached me from Newmarket that Suomi has done all that his trainer could possibly have hoped for during his build-up for today's race and he is napped on the strength of that encouragement.

As far as the day's most valuable race, the Trusthouse Forte Mile, is concerned, this ought to be won by the David Elsworth-trained In The Groove, who took such high rank in the international classifications last year when

winning the Musidora Stakes at York, the Irish 1,000 Guineas, the Juddmonte International Stakes, also at York, and the Dubai Champion Stakes at Newmarket.

Indeed, it is pertinent to point out that when she won the last named she accounted for Linamix who had beaten Zoman in the French 2,000 Guineas.

Bald Lee, already a winner twice up Sandown's sprint chute, can gain his third success in the Wheeler's Restaurant Handicap now that he has been so well drawn with the stalls on the stand side. He can follow up that authoritative burst at Newbury last Saturday.

SANDOWN PARK

MANDARIN	THUNDER	MICHAEL SEELY
2.00 Hay Yuen.	2.00 Cap Camarot.	2.35 Suomi.
2.35 SUOMI (nap).	3.05 Mellaby.	4.10 LOCAL DERBY (nap).
3.05 Solid Lee.	3.05 Cumberland Waiter.	
3.40 In The Groove.	4.10 Local Derby.	
4.10 Local Derby.	4.45 ADJACENT (nap).	
4.45 Saticum Dance.	5.15 Nassab.	
5.15 Gold Law.		

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 Suomi.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: SF, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.00 GARDNER MERCHANT MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,510: 5f) (8 runners)

101 (1)	CAP CAMAROT (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
102 (2)	CHANCE TO OREAN (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
103 (3)	HASTY SHUFFLE (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
104 (4)	DAVE YOUNG (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
105 (5)	REACH FORWARD (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
106 (6)	SARA ANNE (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
107 (7)	TRICKY VERA (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
108 (8)	WALK THAT WALK (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn

BETTING: 2-11 Hay Yuen, 3-1 Walk That Walk, 4-1 Chance To Dream, 5-1 Cap Camarot, 8-1 Sara Anne, 10-1 Hasty Shuffle, 12-1 Reach Forward, 14-1 others.

1990: ALINT HESTER 3-1 W R Swinburn (7-4 fms) M Bell 6 m

FORM FOCUS

CAP CAMAROT (trained Apr 5, cost £70,000) half-sister to Mervin, a several winners, including useful French sprinter Broom Train, a group 1 winner. HASTY SHUFFLE (trained Apr 5, cost £70,000) half-sister to Mervin, a several winners, including useful French sprinter Broom Train, a group 1 winner.

2.35 HARVESTER GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £5,775: 1m) (5 runners)

201 (1)	ALFARES (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
202 (2)	MELLABY (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
203 (3)	SUOMI (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
204 (4)	BRIGHT (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
205 (5)	WALK THAT WALK (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn

BETTING: 10-11 Suomi, 3-1 Mellaby, 9-1 Alfares, 12-1 Bright, 14-1 Walk That Walk.

1990: GALUMER 9-2 S Caughan (8-13 fms) H Cecil 11 m

FORM FOCUS

ALFARES (trained Apr 5, cost £70,000) half-sister to Mervin, a several winners, including useful French sprinter Broom Train, a group 1 winner. HASTY SHUFFLE (trained Apr 5, cost £70,000) half-sister to Mervin, a several winners, including useful French sprinter Broom Train, a group 1 winner.

3.05 WHEELER'S RESTAURANT HANDICAP (27,002: 5f) (13 runners)

301 (1)	1212-4 CAP CAMAROT (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
302 (2)	1212-4 CAP CAMAROT (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
303 (3)	1212-4 CAP CAMAROT (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
304 (4)	1212-4 CAP CAMAROT (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
305 (5)	1212-4 CAP CAMAROT (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn

BETTING: 1-11 Hay Yuen, 3-1 Walk That Walk, 4-1 Chance To Dream, 5-1 Cap Camarot, 8-1 Sara Anne, 10-1 Hasty Shuffle, 12-1 Reach Forward, 14-1 others.

1990: GALUMER 9-2 S Caughan (8-13 fms) H Cecil 11 m

FORM FOCUS

ALFARES (trained Apr 5, cost £70,000) half-sister to Mervin, a several winners, including useful French sprinter Broom Train, a group 1 winner. HASTY SHUFFLE (trained Apr 5, cost £70,000) half-sister to Mervin, a several winners, including useful French sprinter Broom Train, a group 1 winner.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
R. Hoggins	3	7	42.9	A. Cuz	3	12	25.0
L. Cumani	1	5	20.0	P. Eddery	3	12	25.0
M. Caughan	2	8	25.0	D. Elsworth	3	12	25.0
G. Harwood	2	8	25.0	L. Donnan	3	12	25.0
M. Stoute	2	8	25.0	S. Caughan	3	12	25.0

MANDARIN

2.15 Hinar Video.

3.20 Friendly Claim.

3.50 Field Of Honour.

4.20 Run For Nick.

4.55 Kazoo.

5.25 Laurel Queen.

5.55 Manders.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.45 GOVERNOR'S IMP (nap).

3.20 Saint Caligula.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 5.25 LAUREL QUEEN.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)

DRAW: SF-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 PEREGRINE FALCON HANDICAP (22,955: 8f) (16 runners)

1 (1)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
2 (2)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
3 (3)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
4 (4)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
5 (5)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn

BETTING: 1-11 Hay Yuen, 3-1 Walk That Walk, 4-1 Chance To Dream, 5-1 Cap Camarot, 8-1 Sara Anne, 10-1 Hasty Shuffle, 12-1 Reach Forward, 14-1 others.

1990: GALUMER 9-2 S Caughan (8-13 fms) H Cecil 11 m

2.45 EBF BUZZARD MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,673: 5f) (13 runners)

1 (1)	BOON HILL (H) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
2 (2)	BOON HILL (H) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
3 (3)	BOON HILL (H) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
4 (4)	BOON HILL (H) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
5 (5)	BOON HILL (H) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn

BETTING: 1-11 Hay Yuen, 3-1 Walk That Walk, 4-1 Chance To Dream, 5-1 Cap Camarot, 8-1 Sara Anne, 10-1 Hasty Shuffle, 12-1 Reach Forward, 14-1 others.

1990: GALUMER 9-2 S Caughan (8-13 fms) H Cecil 11 m

3.20 KESTREL CLAIMING STAKES (Div 1: 3-Y-O: £2,564: 7f) (9 runners)

1 (1)	61-2316 SAINT CALIGULA (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
2 (2)	61-2316 SAINT CALIGULA (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
3 (3)	61-2316 SAINT CALIGULA (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
4 (4)	61-2316 SAINT CALIGULA (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
5 (5)	61-2316 SAINT CALIGULA (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn

BETTING: 1-11 Hay Yuen, 3-1 Walk That Walk, 4-1 Chance To Dream, 5-1 Cap Camarot, 8-1 Sara Anne, 10-1 Hasty Shuffle, 12-1 Reach Forward, 14-1 others.

1990: GALUMER 9-2 S Caughan (8-13 fms) H Cecil 11 m

3.50 LEVY BOARD MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O colts and geldings: £2,542: 7f)

1 (1)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
2 (2)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
3 (3)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
4 (4)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
5 (5)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn

BETTING: 1-11 Hay Yuen, 3-1 Walk That Walk, 4-1 Chance To Dream, 5-1 Cap Camarot, 8-1 Sara Anne, 10-1 Hasty Shuffle, 12-1 Reach Forward, 14-1 others.

1990: GALUMER 9-2 S Caughan (8-13 fms) H Cecil 11 m

4.20 GOLDEN EAGLE HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,248: 1m) (9 runners)

1 (1)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
2 (2)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
3 (3)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
4 (4)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
5 (5)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn

BETTING: 1-11 Hay Yuen, 3-1 Walk That Walk, 4-1 Chance To Dream, 5-1 Cap Camarot, 8-1 Sara Anne, 10-1 Hasty Shuffle, 12-1 Reach Forward, 14-1 others.

1990: GALUMER 9-2 S Caughan (8-13 fms) H Cecil 11 m

3.40 TRUSTHOUSE FORTE MILE (Group 1: £37,818: 1m) (5 runners)

401 (1)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
402 (2)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
403 (3)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
404 (4)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
405 (5)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn

BETTING: 1-11 Hay Yuen, 3-1 Walk That Walk, 4-1 Chance To Dream, 5-1 Cap Camarot, 8-1 Sara Anne, 10-1 Hasty Shuffle, 12-1 Reach Forward, 14-1 others.

1990: GALUMER 9-2 S Caughan (8-13 fms) H Cecil 11 m

FORM FOCUS

ALFARES (trained Apr 5, cost £70,000) half-sister to Mervin, a several winners, including useful French sprinter Broom Train, a group 1 winner. HASTY SHUFFLE (trained Apr 5, cost £70,000) half-sister to Mervin, a several winners, including useful French sprinter Broom Train, a group 1 winner.

4.10 FORTE HOTELS HANDICAP (27,222: 1m 9f) (13 runners)

501 (1)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
502 (2)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
503 (3)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
504 (4)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
505 (5)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn

BETTING: 1-11 Hay Yuen, 3-1 Walk That Walk, 4-1 Chance To Dream, 5-1 Cap Camarot, 8-1 Sara Anne, 10-1 Hasty Shuffle, 12-1 Reach Forward, 14-1 others.

1990: GALUMER 9-2 S Caughan (8-13 fms) H Cecil 11 m

FORM FOCUS

ALFARES (trained Apr 5, cost £70,000) half-sister to Mervin, a several winners, including useful French sprinter Broom Train, a group 1 winner. HASTY SHUFFLE (trained Apr 5, cost £70,000) half-sister to Mervin, a several winners, including useful French sprinter Broom Train, a group 1 winner.

4.45 CREST HILLS MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,738: 1m 2f) (13 runners)

601 (1)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
602 (2)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
603 (3)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
604 (4)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
605 (5)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn

BETTING: 1-11 Hay Yuen, 3-1 Walk That Walk, 4-1 Chance To Dream, 5-1 Cap Camarot, 8-1 Sara Anne, 10-1 Hasty Shuffle, 12-1 Reach Forward, 14-1 others.

1990: GALUMER 9-2 S Caughan (8-13 fms) H Cecil 11 m

FORM FOCUS

ALFARES (trained Apr 5, cost £70,000) half-sister to Mervin, a several winners, including useful French sprinter Broom Train, a group 1 winner. HASTY SHUFFLE (trained Apr 5, cost £70,000) half-sister to Mervin, a several winners, including useful French sprinter Broom Train, a group 1 winner.

5.15 RING & BRYMER HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,915: 1m 2f) (11 runners)

701 (1)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
702 (2)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
703 (3)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
704 (4)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
705 (5)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn

BETTING: 1-11 Hay Yuen, 3-1 Walk That Walk, 4-1 Chance To Dream, 5-1 Cap Camarot, 8-1 Sara Anne, 10-1 Hasty Shuffle, 12-1 Reach Forward, 14-1 others.

1990: GALUMER 9-2 S Caughan (8-13 fms) H Cecil 11 m

FORM FOCUS

ALFARES (trained Apr 5, cost £70,000) half-sister to Mervin, a several winners, including useful French sprinter Broom Train, a group 1 winner. HASTY SHUFFLE (trained Apr 5, cost £70,000) half-sister to Mervin, a several winners, including useful French sprinter Broom Train, a group 1 winner.

6.15 MOTORWAY SELLING HANDICAP (HURDLE) (21,185: 2m 3f) (15)

801 (1)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
802 (2)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
803 (3)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
804 (4)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
805 (5)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn

BETTING: 1-11 Hay Yuen, 3-1 Walk That Walk, 4-1 Chance To Dream, 5-1 Cap Camarot, 8-1 Sara Anne, 10-1 Hasty Shuffle, 12-1 Reach Forward, 14-1 others.

1990: GALUMER 9-2 S Caughan (8-13 fms) H Cecil 11 m

6.45 PETER BLACKBURN NOVICES CHASE (22,388: 2m 11f) (11)

901 (1)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
902 (2)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
903 (3)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
904 (4)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
905 (5)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn

BETTING: 1-11 Hay Yuen, 3-1 Walk That Walk, 4-1 Chance To Dream, 5-1 Cap Camarot, 8-1 Sara Anne, 10-1 Hasty Shuffle, 12-1 Reach Forward, 14-1 others.

1990: GALUMER 9-2 S Caughan (8-13 fms) H Cecil 11 m

4.55 SPARROW HAWK MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,564: 1m)

1001 (1)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
1002 (2)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
1003 (3)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
1004 (4)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn
1005 (5)	354112 HINARI VIDEO (F) (Salem) P 4-11	T Quinn

BETTING: 1-11 Hay Yuen, 3-1 Walk That Walk, 4-1 Chance To Dream, 5-1 Cap Camarot, 8-1 Sara Anne, 10-1 Hasty Shuffle, 12-1 Reach Forward, 14-1 others.

1990: GALUMER 9-2 S Caughan (8-13 fms) H Cecil 11 m

5.25 KESTREL CLAIMING STAKES (Div 1: 3-Y-O: £2,542: 7f)

8 Bardwell	98	BETTING: 8-11 Kizzo, 8-4 Party Dancer, 12-1 Vado Via, 20-1 Chant
5 Webster	98	1990: APPELLAWIA 38-11 M Birch (7-1) M
A Cufiene	91	
L L Charnock		
J Fleming (S)	99	
A Bisco	99	
S Wood (S)	—	

10-1 Shale's Wimpie.

1 (2)	51-0 ON THE LINE 7 (S) (P Salem) M H Easterly 9-5
2 (1)	000 TELEGRAPH TOUCH 11 (The Pacing Telegraph)
3 (8)	04458-0 NISHKOR 15 (Lary Matthew) Miss 3 Hall 8-8-0
4 (9)	0000- KING VICTOR 21 (P Persons) R O'Leary 9-5

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● FOOTBALL 47

West Indies happy to rely on a winning formula

Tour party can find no room for slow bowler

From JOHN WOODCOCK IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

AS AN indication of the calculated way West Indies now see the game of cricket, they will almost certainly be coming to England this summer with six fast bowlers. Not only that, it will be the first time they have toured anywhere without a specialist spinner.

You may imagine how that will affect their over-rate, and what a sameness there will be about watching them in the field, with only Vivian Richards and Carl Hooper to peddle the occasional off break. On the other hand, it will make them that much harder to beat.

Whether the sixth fast bowler will be Ian Bishop, of Trinidad, or Ian Allen, of St Vincent in the Windward Islands, was still undecided yesterday morning, when a specialist was expected from Trinidad with a report on Bishop's injured back. As their young fast bowler most likely to reach the greatest heights, Bishop is too valuable to West Indies to have any chances taken with his fitness.

Only Brian Lara, Hameesh Anthony and Allen (if he goes) have not already toured England with a full West Indian side. Lara is a neat and natural left-handed batsman in the Kallicharran mould, and Anthony the best of the latest crop of Antiguan fast bowlers. Anthony played six first-class matches for Glamorgan last year, and Lara scored 627 runs at an average of 69, a Trinidad

record, in this season's Red Stripe Cup, the Caribbean's premier competition.

The side's collective experience of cricket in England, both on tour and in the county championship, will be unparalleled. Between them they have already played 98 Test matches there. Allan Border, Australia's captain, believes that England have a fair chance of firing well but to do so they will have to think about bringing back Ian Botham. Anything less Australian than that it would be hard to imagine. England did, of course, come very close to holding West Indies over here a year ago, and English Test pitches are, overall, the best in the world for batting.

When the ball moves about in England it usually does so laterally rather than vertically. In theory, too, it should be possible to find West Indies out, because of their lack of spin, by producing an old-fashioned turner, as happened twice in Sydney in the 1980s; but I am not sure whether England any longer have spinners of their own who would be good enough to collaborate successfully in that.

Against Australia in recent weeks West Indies have shown themselves to be still a much stronger side than they were given credit for before the series started. For some years now, they have been about to meet their Waterloo, but whenever the moment of decision comes it is not they

who will crack. It is at the one-day game that they are more fallible now, and the reasons for that are worth considering.

For one, they are obliged to bowl a certain number of overs in a certain time. The slow over-rate as a tactical ploy is therefore ruled out. For another, the rules of one-day cricket are such that there is little room for bowling bouncers. To that extent, curiously enough, the limited-overs game corresponds more nearly to cricket as it was meant to be played than to the game which West Indies have developed to such effect.

At a time when Test crowds round the world, though to a lesser extent in England, are in serious decline, those for the fourth Test at Bridgetown were as good as anybody could remember. On the first four days the ground, which holds 15,000, was nearly full, the play taking place to the accompaniment of an impromptu band which grew in size and confidence that it came to calling itself the Kensington Overthrowers.

Last November in Karachi (population ten million) I watched West Indies play Pakistan in a more or less empty stadium; in the next Test in Faisalabad (population three million), every stand was empty when the captains tossed for innings; in Barbados (population 250,000) all roads led to the Oval.

This is good news for the island, where the game, once something of a religion, had seemed to be losing its appeal. For all that, the youngest of their three players in the team to England is Malcolm Marshall — and he is 33.

Match reports, Page 39

SPORT



Reined in: Nicola Coe shows her disappointment as she has to deny her horse, Middle Road, the chance of defending his title at Badminton

Badminton trophy holder forced out by fetlock injury

By JENNY MACARTHUR

IN A further disappointment for the Coe family, Nicola Coe, the winner of Badminton last year, yesterday withdrew from next week's Whitbread championships after an injury to her horse, Middle Road. The 15-year-old gelding on which, as Nicola McIlvaine, she won the Whitbread Trophy, injured his fetlock joint at Brighthelm earlier this month. It was thought at first to be an overreach but the joint became swollen.

Mrs Coe, who made the decision to withdraw less than 24 hours after learning of the failure of her husband Sebastian's London Olympic 2000 bid, said yesterday: "I am bitterly disappointed but I couldn't bear to risk him breaking down at Badminton. He'll end his career as the Whitbread champion."

Their win last year, in which they defeated Blyth Tait and Messiah — later to become world champions — to second place, had been the fulfilment of a long-standing dream. The pair had competed successfully at international level for seven years but had had no big win.

Their first attempt at Badminton came in 1986. They made one mistake at the steps on the cross country. The following year Badminton was

cancelled. In 1988 Middle Road sprained a suspensory ligament.

The turning point came in 1989. At their second attempt at Badminton, they were lying fifth after the dressage but had a runout at the Vicarage Veer. "That changed my whole attitude," Mrs Coe said. "I had been competing at international level for nearly eight years and I was determined after that mistake I would never let Harold down again."

The win at Badminton last year propelled her to the forefront of the sport. She was disappointed not to be chosen for the World championships later that year.

"Winning Badminton made me realise that I was good enough at last — I had been doing quite well for seven years but you have to win to be noticed." Recognition of a different sort came three months later, in August, when she married Sebastian Coe.

Unless Hugh Thomas, the director of the Whitbread championships at Badminton, has some more withdrawals, eight of the 92 entries might not be able to compete next week.

Mark Todd, the dual Olympic champion, from New Zealand, has accepted a last-minute ride for Badminton on Just an Ace.

Gascoigne's place is taken by Batty

THE England manager, Graham Taylor, has named the uncapped David Batty as replacement for the injured Paul Gascoigne in the squad for next Wednesday's European championship qualifier against Turkey in Izmir.

The selection of the combative Leeds United midfielder player seems to provide final confirmation that Taylor is willing to do without both Chris Waddle and Bryan Robson, both of whom were controversially omitted from the squad he originally named. Since then, they have

helped steer their respective clubs into European finals.

Batty is expected to make his third England B appearance in the match against Iceland at Watford tomorrow but will then join the senior party.

Howard Wilkinson, the manager of Leeds United, and Mel Sterland, the club's former England international, have been charged with misconduct by the Football Association after last week's League match with Queen's Park Rangers, where Gordon Strachan was sent off for the first time in his career.

United's success has disguised the facts

By DAVID MILLER

WHILE England happily celebrates Manchester United's welcome appearance in a European final for the first time in 23 years, the occasion may serve to show the extent to which English clubs have suffered from their six-year exclusion from European competition. If the result against Barcelona in the Cup Winners' Cup final in Rotterdam favours United, it will only camouflage the collective inexperience that has accumulated.

Although Independent Television, in pursuit of salesmanship for its coverage of the final, was busy proclaiming on Wednesday night "A brilliant performance" after the victory over Legia Warsaw, the army team from Warsaw, the truth was that Legia were feeble in the first leg and then held United in a low-key second leg which attracted 44,000 of Old Trafford's phenomenally loyal followers.

Yet, there is no comparison between the present United side and that which beat Benfica at Wembley in 1968. The euphoria created by the emergence of Lee Sharpe, an exciting winger whose thundering goal on Wednesday night was reminiscent of the prime of Bobby Charlton, has helped disguise the facts.

Manchester's passage to the final has been very much via the nursery route: Posh, Wrexham, Montpellier and Legia.

Much of English football, during severance from European competition, has reverted to the instinctive, more physical, up-and-down tactics that were busy being exposed in the late Fifties and early Sixties... by Barcelona and others.

United's use of the long, high ball to Sharpe was naive and would be shut off by any intelligent full back standing off.

English teams with exceptional individual ability, such as Tottenham Hotspur, West Ham United and Manchester United found early European success; but the real dominance, stemming from the principles of Sir Alf Ramsey and Jack

Stewart and beginning with Celtic's victory in 1967, was based on work-rate and midfield dominance, effectively pursued by Leeds United and Liverpool.

When Liverpool and Nottingham Forest made the Champions Cup almost exclusive property, it was because they had become masters of the continental game: playing from the back.

Even Liverpool have lost something of this recently, a quality that has generally declined in the years of separation, and will now have to be regained.

Also lost is the art of "pressing", the Dutch-German technique of regaining possession in the opposing half of the field and which we saw in operation elsewhere on Wednesday night from television clips. Re-education in Eng-

land will take time. The risk for Manchester United in Rotterdam is that a pair of old-fashioned centre backs, Pallister and Bruce, will be unhelped by unmarked players running at them from deep positions.

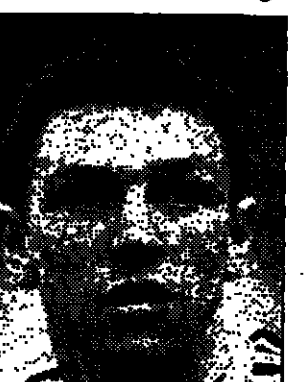
Under the guidance of Johan Cruyff, mastermind of the Dutch football in the Seventies and now recovering from a heart attack, Barcelona, when they attack, often do so with any of ten players: the old "total" football.

Bayern were doing the same in their attempt to save the semi-final against Red Star, who led 2-1 from the away leg. Augenthaler, the Bayern sweeper, had scored in the 2-1 recovery, then sadly put through his own net to give Red Star victory. British football has had no Augenthaler or Koeman — sweeper for Barcelona — since the demise of Hansen at Liverpool: the most un-British player of the past decade.

Although conversation about Manchester in England tends to revolve around Waddle, the French club, only the third to reach the Champions final, is bristling with skill, including the defence, with such players as Amoros, Mozer, Di Meco and Casoni. It promises to be a lively final against Red Star in Bari.

I am delighted that Uefa had the strength of its convictions and upheld the one-year ban on Milan for scandalous behaviour in the quarter-final second leg against Marseille. Yet, something should be done about the Marseille scandal, which is almost as archaic as Heyssel before the 1985 disaster.

European competition will undoubtedly be the better, in variety, for the return of Liverpool and one other English club next season. One of the most important benefits for Manchester United's appearance in the final is that it will hasten the re-establishment of a full complement of English clubs, at present denied by the loss of points-status through a six-year absence.



Sharpe: thundering goal

UN pledges

Kurdi sweet Iraqis

FROM CHRISTOPHER V

HEAVILY armed Kurdish guerrillas arrived in the northern Iraqi town of Zakho yesterday, hours after Baghdad withdrew most of its forces there. British military sources, who took over control of the town from American troops, reported that there were signs of an influx of Kurdish refugees heading towards the first of the newly established camps of the Kurds, which are in a valley two miles to the east of Zakho.

During the day, a group of armed Kurdish guerrillas arrived in Zakho, a formidable demonstration of weaponry. The arrival poses a dilemma for the British, who are seeking to evacuate hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees from the Turkish border mountains while avoiding a political role that will get them bogged down in Iraq's internal conflict.

Yesterday, President Bush said that American troops would stay in northern Iraq as long as needed to help Kurdish refugees. He again urged the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein, saying "it's

TODAY IN
THE TIMES

METROPOLIS

Jan Morris spends a day in the West End of London, a changed capital city which never exhausts the interest Review

NOSTALGIA

Richard Morrison on nostalgia (now for the Fifities), the cream bun of emotions. But with a healthy obsession with the past? Page 8

INTERVIEW

Baroness de Rothschild tells Carol Leonard what it means to bear the name of a family label in a world of claret and blue blood Review

INSIDE

Mother jailed
A mother who said she turned to crime because she was unable to pay household bills, collapsed sobbing in court yesterday when she was jailed for four years after admitting robbing seven building societies. Page 3

Aid for Hanoi
For the first time since the end of the Vietnam war, America is to give a symbolic amount of financial aid to Hanoi. The \$1 million offer is for artificial limbs for those injured in the war. Page 6

Fraud enquiry
The Serious Fraud Office is investigating a £3.5 million fraud suffered by National Home Loans, the mortgage lender. Page 21

The Times
The price of The Times will rise to 40p from Monday (45p on Saturdays).

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TOMORROW

The Times presents an opportunity for a reader to partner one of the leading golfers in the pro-am tournament preceding the Murphy's Cup at Fulford, York, in June. The winner of our competition, and a friend, will also enjoy a full day's hospitality at the tournament.

Jail sentence puts doubt on Moore

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BRIAN Moore, the Harlequins and England hooker, was given a suspended jail sentence yesterday after admitting a charge of assault in a Nottingham public house last autumn. Moore, aged 29 and an integral part of the

England side which won rugby union's grand slam this season, must now wait to learn his sport's reaction.

He has been selected for the party to tour Australia and Fiji in July, as part of England's preparations for the World Cup this autumn but Dudley Wood, the secretary of the Rugby Football Union whose full committee meets next Friday, expressed his concern at the effect the court case would have on "the image of rugby football and the international team".

"The committee will have to consider what has happened though I cannot anticipate whether his [tour] selection will be affected or not," Wood said. Moore was given a four-month prison sentence at Nottingham Magistrates Court, suspended for two years, and fined £500 for assault causing actual bodily harm on Mark Thomas, aged 22, a student at Nottingham Polytechnic.

Gillian Bignall, prosecuting, said a row began when Thom made some facetious comments about Moore, who was with colleagues from Harlequins — the club he joined this season from Nottingham, where he lived for ten years.

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Major makes early declaration for Manchester

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE prime minister yesterday began the process of making Manchester a genuinely national bid to stage the 2000 Olympic Games by writing a letter congratulating the city on receiving the nomination from the British Olympic Association. Whereas Mrs Thatcher took several months to write to Manchester when it secured the previous nomination in 1988, her successor, whose love of sport is well known, demonstrated the change of interest.

John Major wrote: "There will obviously be very tough competition from around the world to stage the 2000 Olympics. Manchester has many attributes to commend it."

Manchester must now hope that the prime minister will translate his interest into action by perhaps attending the International Olympic



Committee session in Birmingham in June and certainly the session in September 1993 in the company of many other heads of state when the venue for the 2000 Games is decided.

Bob Scott, chairman of the bid, said: "I'm absolutely delighted with the letter. It is an immediate sign that we are a national bid and we have struggled for that status before." Although Manchester is not expecting government finance for

the facilities and the running of the Games, it is obviously hoping that some of the £60-75 million allocated annually to a new foundation paid by the football pools will be available for the building of stadiums. Desmond Pitcher, the chief executive of Littlewoods, which proposed the scheme just before the budget last month, is on the committee of the Manchester bid.

Scott's first task is to concentrate on bringing the whole country behind Manchester. He is planning to open a London office and wants to raise the awareness of the government and the public to the benefits of the bid.

Manchester will also be building at least three and possibly eight new facilities before the 1993 IOC session. He knows that the new sites must have a use after the Olympics. A series of financial partnerships between the public and private sectors will be necessary. Scott said:

"We want to turn the dream facilities into deliverable facilities."

Until some more facilities have been completed in the North-West, Scott is not proposing to invite the IOC members to visit the city again. Although they will all be in Birmingham in June for the session, there are no plans for a tour of Manchester. Sixty-one members have already visited the city and conditions have not sufficiently changed since Manchester lost the vote to stage the 1996 Games.

Scott will deliberately delay concentrating on the international aspect of the Games although he will be going to Atlanta, the successful candidate for 1996, to debrief the group that put together the tender. The exact strategy of how Manchester will secure more than the 11 votes it got in the first round and the five in the second in its

attempt to get the 1996 Games will not be known until the other candidate cities are declared.

"If Paris were to bid, that would make a fundamental impact because there are certain votes from the French-speaking countries that you could write off," he said. Scott will be active internationally over the next year and will certainly visit the IOC HQ in Lausanne, from whom he received a telex of congratulations yesterday, but the main effort will only come after the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

The Central Council of Physical Recreation said it would give its full support to Manchester although its secretary, Peter Lawson, said he was "personally disappointed at the result and rather surprised that 28 people identified Manchester as having a better chance internationally to get the Games than London."

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